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Page 7

Crossword
Diary
Engagements
Features
Law Report
Letters
Obituary

Flushed and angry, Mr. Orm replied that he would leave the house to judge those statements against Mr. Rees's record and background.

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ME NEWS

P to ask Ombudsman for inquiry of £100m dam scheme after allegations of misleading figures

In Chertsey, an early supply of extra water to the North-east industrial region by 1978.

Nevertheless Sir Rupert Spier, former MP for Hexham and one of the original opponents of a scheme designed to create an artificial lake with the same surface area as Ullswater, was allowed to make a formal statement in which he said that "phony figures" had been presented at earlier public inquiries.

They resulted in 200 people being unnecessarily evicted from their homes and farms and seven miles of an unspoiled valley being threatened with inundation.

He told the meeting that he had asked Mr Rippon (who was the minister responsible for finally authorizing the scheme) to call for an investigation by the Ombudsman.

Mr John Charlton, landowner and chairman of the Upper North Tyne Society, referred to extraordinary figures his organisation had obtained from government sources showing that the water authority's consumption on Teesdale last year was 29 per cent lower than in the previous year.

The essence of the challenge to the Kielder scheme has always been that the water authority's projection of a doubling of water demand in the North-east to a total of 386m gallons by the end of the century was exaggerated.

Sir Rupert said that if the scheme was carried out domestic and industrial consumers for

generations ahead would have to pay exorbitant and increasing water rates. Unless the water authority paused and reviewed the whole scheme, he said, he would encourage every member of the public, every parish council, every local authority in the North-east to back his request for an inquiry by the Ombudsman.

Mr Rippon, in a guarded statement, agreed that he had been in "a curious position" when he was both MP for the constituency and the minister for authorizing the scheme.

He said he would not make his own views known publicly at this stage but would refer the request he had received to the Ombudsman. He would ask him to investigate the history of the whole Kielder scheme in order to satisfy those who had been dispossessed of their homes and farms that their sufferings had not been brought about by injustice and that the validity of the scheme had not been altered by the new information produced at yesterday's inquiry.

Students' union launches paper

National Students' Union newspaper printing 100,000 copies, was launched by the National Union of Students yesterday.

It is being distributed to all union members and aims to be independent, refusing to publish propaganda or theoretical diatribes. It is edited by Mr Francis Beckert, aged 30.

Public-spending cuts heavy and will hurt

Mr Maude, who is chairman of the Conservative Party's research department, said there was no hope of restoring industrial prosperity and investment unless public authorities spent and borrowed less.

Cuts were also necessary to reduce taxes and because the country could not continue to borrow £12,000m a year to finance deficit spending by public authorities.

Mr Maude said everyone wanted public spending cut, provided their own benefits were preserved. Unless everyone was prepared to make some sacrifice, nothing effective would be done, and in the end everyone would be much poorer.

He said the minor cuts now being made by local authorities were only a beginning, but if they were not followed by more, the reckoning would be heavier.

"Public spending cuts may involve some temporary increase in unemployment," he said, "but without them those who are now out of work will never find secure jobs."

Local experts say next pay rises may be under £5

Councils in England have been told that the rate of the Government's policy might bring it of about 8 per cent which is less than is contained in all county treasurers' Leicestershire County Council, explaining the £480m limit the Government has set over increases in pay in 1976-77.

Local authorities, that employ million people, are the difficulty of pay increases for the autumn.

Government figures, says the £480m was on the assumption that pay policy would rise to somewhere between 7 per cent and 10 per cent the £480m falls

Film unions to seek fund for emergencies

Film unions are to demand that film-makers should put some of their budget money into a fund to pay off security technicians and other staff if a production suddenly collapses.

The move is made by the Federation of Film Unions after the collapse of at least three planned feature films which stopped in the early stages of production.

The federation already has an agreement with the established British film-making companies over such a fund. They deposit enough money to pay the cast and production staff two weeks' wages if the film is not completed.

The unions want the deal to be extended to all production companies.

One of the three films that collapsed recently was *Trick or Treat*, with Bianca Jagger.

The *Playroom* left production staff stranded in Italy, and another film that was not made was *The New Spartans*, which was to have starred Oliver Reed and Susan George.

Equity, a member of the federation, is planning legal action against Maclean Films, which was to have produced *The New Spartans*.

Fine cut to £3,000

Matthew John Gerard Neville O'Brien, aged 37, of Daska House, King's Road, Chelsea, who was fined £10,000 at Staines Crown Court, London, on October 20 for importing cannabis, had the fine reduced to £3,000 by the Court of Appeal.

Echoes from the spectacular collapse of the Stern property group Tenants complain they are pawns in a game

By Michael Horwell

Tenants of an aging block of fashionable London flats, once owned by the defunct Stern empire, say that they have been used as "rent-paying pawns" in a game between financiers ever since the spectacular crash of the group in 1974.

The complaints of the 34 tenants of the block in Seymour Place, St. Marylebone, involve City institutions and include the political reverberations still being felt from the Stern collapse.

The dispersal of the former Stern properties has been intentionally held up, they say, because of the poor property market, which would be made even weaker if all the flats were put on the market at the same time.

Meanwhile, the tenants of Sherwood Court, built in 1928, allege that none of the parties involved in the dispersal is fully prepared to take responsibility for the upkeep of the block.

The Sherwood Court tenants' association, which has twice tried to buy the block from the mortgagors under the aegis of Mr Kenneth Cork, an accountant, of W. H. Cork, Gully, liquidator of the Stern group, is taking legal advice.

It is considering suing Unit holders Provident Assurance Ltd, part of the Hambros group, which lent Stern £900,000 in 1973 to buy the block, and Metropolitan Property Holdings, the landlord, under the Housing Act, 1974, which allows tenants to sue under repair covenants.

Mr Louis Grey, vice-chairman

of the association, is also considering personally suing both companies under the Public Health Act, 1936, on the ground that conditions at the block constitute a public nuisance and a menace to health.

Representatives of the block say that at least £100,000 will be needed for repairs, including the replacement of the original and defective electrical wiring, new plumbing, and heating systems, and repairs to potentially dangerous balconies and stairs. Plans by Hambros to spend £20,000 on repairs and repainting the block internally and externally were described by Mr Grey as "merely cosmetic surgery".

Matters have come to a head only recently because of plans for a further increase in rents, which went up last year by 40

per cent. The association will be contesting the application to day.

Mr Grey says: "The place is so rotten you can dig a pencil into the woodwork. The original 1928 wiring is still in place, and if you stamp your foot in the right place you can turn the lights off. The back stairs are in a dangerous condition, and we are overrun with vermin from the boiler house, sewage and flying beetles."

Tenants pay between £775 and £975 a year rent for the flats, exclusive of rates.

Sources close to W. H. Cork, Gully say the liquidators believe that the tenants of the 560m former Stern property concern live cheaply and that money borrowed on the property far exceeds the value if it is sold with sitting tenants.

Tate Gallery defends purchase of bricks

By Our Arts Reporter

The Tate Gallery, unrepentant about its purchase of a piece of sculpture consisting of a pile of 120 bricks, put them on show yesterday.

They are the work of Carl Andre, the American sculptor, who received an offer to buy them in 1972 after the Tate had seen a photograph of them. But by then he had returned them to the brickyard and got his money back because he could not find a buyer. So he bought some more, crated them and sent them to the Tate.

Mr Jenkins, minister responsible for the arts, has said he is to inquire into the purchase, which he discussed yesterday with senior officials of his department.

Sir Norman Reid, Director of the Tate, defended its purchasing policy. The trustees, he said, had been following a more adventurous policy in trying to discharge their responsibility of making available to the public examples of work being made now. Some purchases would appear incomprehensible or even offensive to some visitors in the same way that Constable's work is widely attacked in his own day.

Mr Gwyn Roberts, Labour MP for Cannock, has tabled a Commons question to Mr Jenkins seeking an inquiry into the way money is spent on the arts. He has also offered to construct a tableau of saucers for the Tate Gallery's consideration. If they bought it, he said, he would give the money to Labour Party funds.

Sea-lions died from wrong drug, QC says

From Our Correspondent

A veterinary surgeon's professional negligence caused the deaths of two performing sea-lions and the loss of two years' earnings in international circuits, it was alleged in the High Court in Manchester yesterday.

Mr George Carman, QC, said the veterinary surgeon prescribed the wrong drug and recommended an excessive dosage, after seeing Thumper, who was three, and Swindle, who was four, at the Tower Circus, Blackpool, in August, 1970.

He said: "By using Temaban, a violent drug, and recommending a dosage in excess of that

suggested by the makers, the defendant committed an alarming blunder."

The American owner, trainer and presenter of the sea-lions, Mrs Barbara Morris, aged 47, of Florida, is claiming damages for breach of contract against Mr George Towse, of Carr Lane, Singleton, Lancashire. He is contesting the case.

Mr Carman, for Mrs Morris, said the act was known all over the world and at Blackpool Mrs Morris was being paid £250 a week, plus free fish, which saved her about £50 a week.

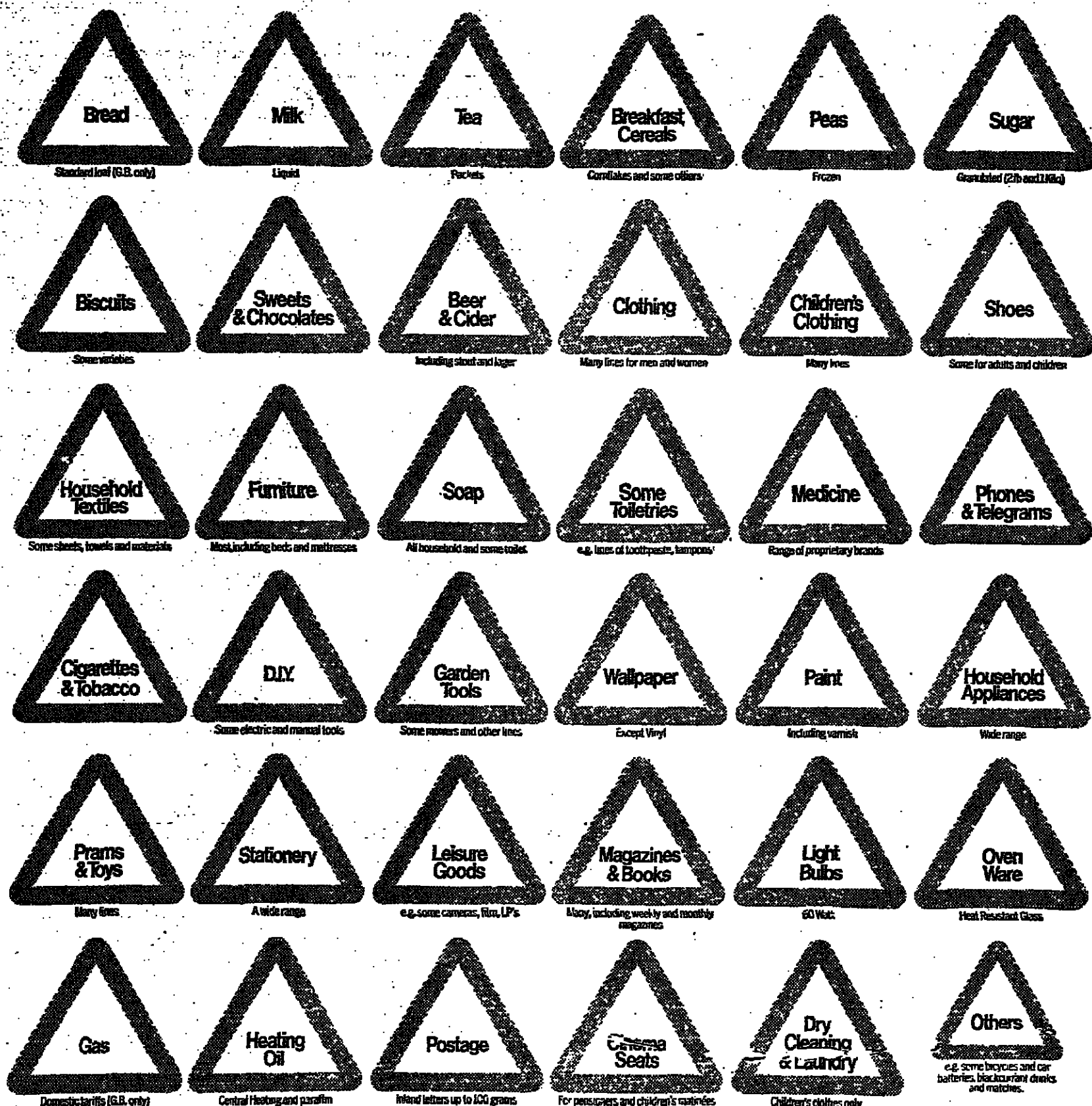
Mr Towse was called in when Mrs Morris suspected that they had tapeworm, a non-urgent condition.

Moderate again is top of TGWU poll

Mr Jack Adams, the shop steward who unseated Mr Alan Thorne, the so-called Mole, from the Midlands region committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union, again topped the poll in the second ballot, ordered by the union after complaints from Oxford of "abnormally high voting figures".

Mr Thorne withdrew from the second ballot. Mr Adams, who is the union's convenor at the MG works at Abingdon, polled 3,198 votes, 400 more than his nearest rival.

These goods are in the Price Check Scheme.



The scheme means that the price of each of the products listed above won't increase by more than 5p in the pound over the next 6 months.

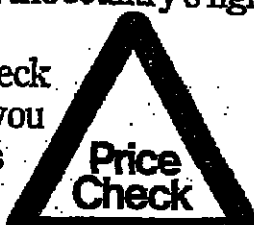
This is much less than prices in general have been rising until recently.

Manufacturers and shopkeepers have been able to agree this scheme with the Government now that pay restraint is beginning to show results and

price rises are beginning to slow down.

Price Check is another part of the country's fight against inflation.

Look out for the red Price Check triangle in your local shops, it tells you they're stocking Price Check goods and joining in the scheme.



An agreement between Manufacturers, Shopkeepers and the Government.
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HOME NEWS

Proposal to end the practice of remanding young people to adult prisons expected in White Paper

By Penny Symon

A White Paper is expected shortly that will reveal the Government's thinking on the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, and those concerned with juvenile offenders are hoping that it will contain something to help them out of the confusion in which they are at present working.

The White Paper will be based on a report from the Commons expenditure committee, which made 40 recommendations last September. Its chairman, Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, is extremely concerned that nothing has been done about any of them.

"It is scandalous that there has been this delay, because our first recommendation was that the practice of remanding young persons to adult prisons should cease forthwith," she said. "Nothing has been done about this, and children are still being sent to adult prisons, particularly worrying feature is that about forty per cent of those remanded to prisons subsequently receive non-custodial sentences."

The White Paper will also contain some of the views the Government has received from a Home Office and Department of Health and Social Security working party, but there are no plans at present for their thoughts to be published separately from the White Paper.

The Children and Young Persons Act was an attempt to acknowledge that children in trouble might be victims of emotional, environmental and physical deprivation, and in need of care and love, rather than discipline. Its vociferous critics are divided between those who feel that it has no teeth, and those who consider it of no help because it has not been fully implemented.

There is some agreement over what it considered the Act's chief failing: it has not been effective in differentiating between children who need care, welfare, better education and more support from society, and the minority who need strict control and an element of punishment.

The White Paper will be greeted with some cynicism by those who feel that enough talk has been done and there is adequate legislation, but what is needed is money so that the facilities can be provided to make the Act work. However, it is expected that the Government will go some way to mollify magistrates who feel that their powers have been eroded because care orders, which have taken the place of approved school orders under the Act, hand a child into the care of the local authority, and the court no longer has control over where it is sent.

Because of that frustration and, to some extent, their misgivings about some young social workers who, they feel, are

instinctively on the child's side against them, magistrates are making increasing use of the certificate of unfitness. That enables the subject to be held in a remand centre or prison if one is available, an adult prison otherwise.

More than three thousand such certificates are issued annually for children on remand. The opinion has been expressed, and Mrs Short's committee wanted something done immediately.

It is likely that the White Paper will make some recommendation about the provision of short-term secure accommodation for children on remand, as more of them are sent to prison, the further way those who work with them are getting from the spirit of the Act.

"There is a terrible shortage of facilities and a lack of places for children to go to, and we are trying to work in a chaotic situation," Mr Leslie Crew, principal of a community home school at Redhill, Surrey, says.

"There has been an upsurge of interest in secure accommodation, which is a good idea for containing the really unruly. But there is a danger if it becomes the pattern to put into secure accommodation children who are difficult to manage but who could probably have been dealt with in an open establishment, given time and care. It would be dreadful if the problem was just shut away."

severest effect would be a reduction of more than £2m on community education and that teacher recruitment would not be affected in Strathclyde by the economic axe. The region has 26,250 teachers and already its secondary schools require 300 more teachers to bring them to establishment.

Mr Miller said it was intended to complete and open 55 new nursery schools before the end of March, 1977, and that 26 nursery schools now being built would be completed during the financial year.

A saving of £750,000 is to be made by postponing the replacement of school furniture and fittings, and cuts amounting to nearly £1m will be made in provision of books and materials. Vacancies will not be filled without careful appraisal of the financial year.

There will be a more stringent assessment of free milk

SNP calls for cash to aid expansion

From David Leigh Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party wants Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to inject cash into the Scottish economy for expansionist policies.

The party proposed in Edinburgh yesterday, as part of submissions for the Budget in April, that local authorities should be given loans with interest rates of about 6 per cent on condition that most of the money is spent on Scottish goods and services.

It also proposed that the Scottish Development Agency should immediately be given a £300m annual budget and should be made responsible for initiating a venture capital fund to help in setting up new companies.

Mr Douglas Crawford, MP for Perth and East Perthshire and SNP finance and industry spokesman, said the SNP's economic structure and potential was "poles apart from England's".

Scottish unemployment had to be ameliorated, he said. A strong Scottish economy would be of value to the regions of England that were ailing. The SDA should also stockpile capital goods from Scottish firms until the world economy turned upwards.

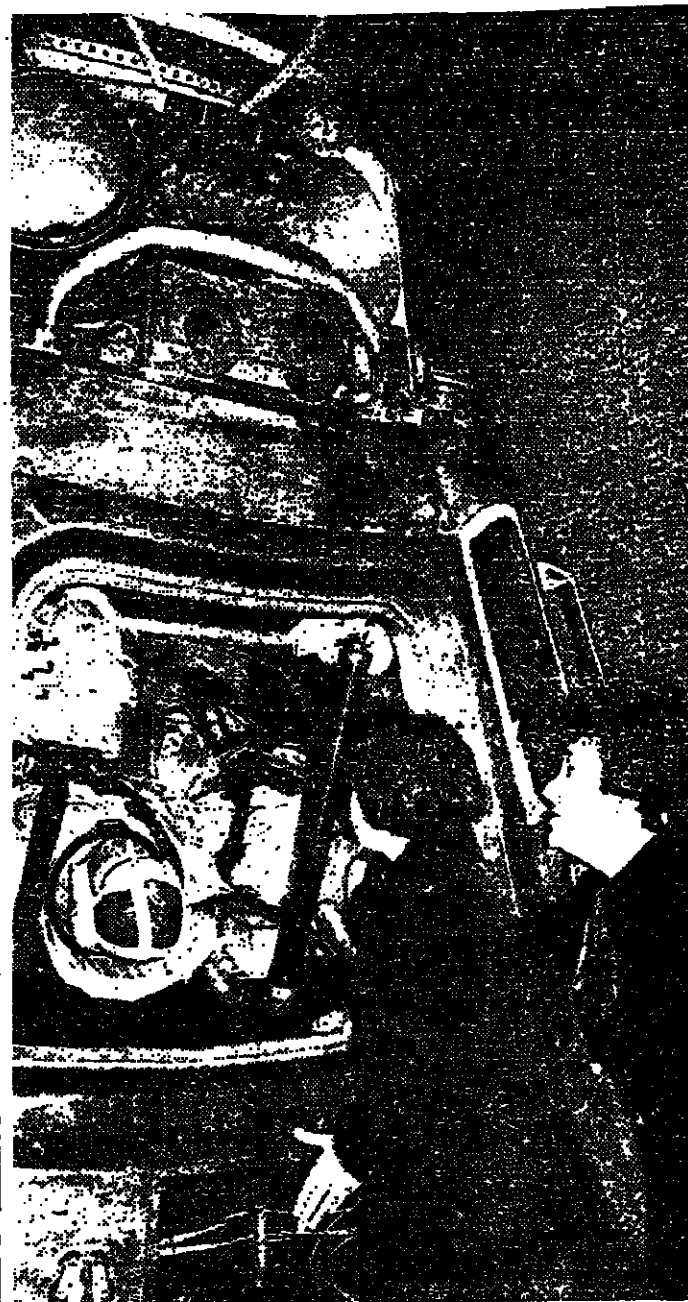
Four men and woman on drug charges

Four men and a woman were remanded to magistrates at Hendon, London, yesterday after a police raid on a house in Hertfordshire last Friday when 1,400lb of cannabis was seized.

The defendants are Ronald Orsmond, aged 44, a painter, and Rufus Orsmond, aged 51, a chauffeur, both of Harrogate Road, Oxley, Watford; Terence Groves, aged 26, a painter, of Bridlington Road, Oxley; Beryl Anthony, aged 29, a housewife, of Saltram Crescent, Paddington, London; and John Smith, aged 29, unemployed, of Albert Palace Mansions, Lurline Gardens, Battersea, London.

They are charged with conspiring with others not in custody to conceal and dispose of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971, by supplying and offering to supply cannabis resin between July 1, 1975, and February 13 this year.

Mr Anthony and Mr Groves were released on bail. All five are to appear again today week.



Dr Margaret Weston, Director of the Science Museum, showing a young visitor the Apollo 10 spacecraft, on view at the museum.

Gallantry awards for Flixborough rescuers

Two men who rescued several workers from the Nygro (UK) Ltd plant at Flixborough, Humberside, after two explosions in June, 1974, have been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

The awards, announced in the London Gazette today, go to Mr Vincent Isbell, relief shift superintendent and Mr Michael Oliver White, assistant superintendent.

They were on duty at the plant when a large vapour cloud formed by a leak of cyclohexane exploded, killing several people, seriously injuring others and causing widespread damage.

A wall of flame faced Mr Isbell as he tried to reach the sulphate store. As he turned back to attempt radio instructions to turn off the gas the second explosion happened.

He was hurled to the floor, where he was struck by flying debris. But he climbed over the rubble and assembled six members of his shift at a boundary fence.

The second blast also knocked over Mr White. He scrambled over and met Mr Isbell, and they returned to look for survivors.

They smelt ammonia and isolated the containers and Mr White helped an injured man

Fight to save homes goes to Court of Appeal

By Robert Parker

A long dispute over South-west London's plans to demolish 157 Victorian houses in Camberwell, south London, and put up new ones went to a stage further yesterday with the opening of a case in the Court of Appeal.

Residents and a local preservation group, the Camberwell Society, have been fighting the council's plan through a public inquiry and through the High Court. Their efforts have also involved High Court and Court of Appeal injunctions restraining the council from going ahead with work while court cases have been outstanding.

The residents and the Camberwell Society want the council to reconsider repairing the houses in the area, rather than demolishing them. They argue that it is the only way to save residents out of five want but that it would cost less than half of the £5m redevelopment cost.

They think that the question of rehabilitation rather than redevelopment was not properly discussed at the public inquiry in January, 1974.

Yesterday's appeal was against the High Court decision of February 2, which Mr Justice Willis refused to declare that Southwark council had not given adequate reasons for refusing rehabilitation orders requested by six residents.

The Rest of the News told the Press Council that Mr Woolley's reply was at best inadequate and at worst presumed a naivety that they found insulting.

Mr John Grant, managing editor of The Times, repeated to the Press Council his explanation why they had not published the letter. They had no means of knowing it had not been sent to Mr Foot for publication or that it was accompanied by a private letter.

Moreover, the copy sent to The Times was a photocopy. Only one of the signatories had signed in ink, and two others were by proxy. Further, The Times did not think there was a right of reply in this instance, as Mr Wade was simply expressing his own views in his by-lined article. It was impossible to find space for all correspondents who disagreed with views expressed in The Times.

The Press Council's adjudication was: "The fault here is that as the penultimate paragraph of the article gave rise to a right of reply the complainants ought to have been told at once the fact that The Times had a right of exclusivity and could not publish a letter bearing only one of their signatures. Complainants should have been given the opportunity of rectifying this position if they wanted to. To that extent the complaint against The Times is upheld."

The Press Council has again condemned the identification in court reports of relatives of accused persons who are not connected with the proceedings.

A complaint was received that The Daily Telegraph gave unnecessary publicity to the identity of a relative. The newspaper published a story about a man who had pleaded guilty to charges of indecency. In the second paragraph he was described as brother of the

Councils' plan dispute may involve Whitehall

By John Young

The Department of the Environment may be asked to intervene in a dispute between a county and a district council over the design of a new housing estate. If so, it will be seen as an important test of where the division of planning responsibilities lies between first-tier and second-tier authorities.

Earlier this month Basildon District Council refused to accept a directive from Essex County Council telling it to reject a planning application for an estate in Billericay on the ground that it did not meet the principles set out in the county's recently published design guide.

The county council considers the proposals "a mediocre suburban housing layout", consisting of "long rows of semi-detached houses, monotonous terrace blocks and three-storey flats placed haphazardly in the scheme."

"The houses have inadequate gardens and lack privacy. The layout of roads is confusing, no

defined hierarchy is apparent, and many car parking areas are not convenient to the houses and by their positioning would tend to dominate the appearance of the estate and cause traffic hazard."

Although the county recognises that the Local Government Act, 1972, gives primary responsibility for development control and detailed planning to district councils, it considers that county wide policies are its prerogative.

The proposed development, it says, would harm its interests "by the creation of dual standards and by perpetuating the very form of development that the policy seeks to discontinue."

County officials say they were obliged to issue the directive to reject the application after the district council had declined the offer of a meeting to discuss the issue. The district council said it considered the directive "an unjustifiable interference" and instructed its officers to contest its validity, through legal action if necessary.

Teachers give warning on university cuts

By a Staff Reporter

In the same week as the publication of the White Paper on public expenditure the Association of University Teachers has appealed to the Government not to starve the already emaciated universities of future funds.

In a memorandum submitted yesterday to Mr Fowler, Minister of State for Education and Science, the association says that a prolonged period of cuts in university finance has already made serious inroads in university services. "We must not reach the point where universities cannot any longer provide the excellence which attracts praise from all over the world," it says.

It was time for a renewed sense of confidence in the universities. They had not only

been through a financially difficult period but had experienced a great deal of criticism from politicians and commentators, "who seem to have concentrated their praises on as yet untried institutions of further and higher education."

Yet university student intake rose last October by almost 7 per cent over the previous year, and undergraduate applications for next October were already up by more than 7 per cent. The universities were turning out about 60,000 graduates a year, with first degrees and about 15,000 with higher degrees.

Their research contribution was remarkable. Last year British industry earned about £40m by exploiting the patents and inventions of university staff.

Inquiry into police handling of murder case postponed as inquiries continue

By Peter Evans

The Home Office press notice itself says: "These matters are not within Sir Henry's terms of reference and are quite independent of his inquiry."

That, on the face of it, would imply that there was no good reason why other officers within the Metropolitan Police should not do the investigation. Yet, apparently, inconsistently with that, Sir Henry and Mr Jenkins are responsible for calling in West Mercia, Sir Robert Mark, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, I understand, has welcomed the fact that a thorough independent investigation is to be made.

I understand that the West Mercia officers will follow a new line of investigation suggested by re-examination of some of the material during preparation of papers for Sir Henry's inquiry. If that investigation is merely into the death and not into the way the investigation was conducted, that could be done by Metropolitan Police officers.

Sir Henry's inquiry is to be "into the circumstances leading

to the trial, in Nov. of Colin George Ahmet Salih, a William Longdon arising from the Maxwell Confait."

Last October 7 Appeal quashed convictions in connection with the death of Mr Confait at the house in which the ground on which the "unreliable" expert evidence. Ronald Leighton, 16, was convicted of Mr Confait and was detained during a pleasure.

Colin Leighton, 18, who was said mental age of eight guilty of manslaughter, and was detained at Rampton. Ahmet Salih, then guilty of arson, was to be detained for their release. Their release public controversy sure from Mr Chris Labour MP for Ley

Influenza at level of 1969 rising

Britain's influenza is running at a high level since the 1969 and it may get worse, the Central Public Laboratory at Colindale Laboratory.

That view, based on a number of confirmed cases is gloomier than the delay in collecting and the fact that cases are not reported.

The laboratory's confirmed infections is 215 a week. That is the level reached in the 1969 outbreak. 2,800 people died in that year, but patients do not die from influenza at the same rate as in 1969. There were 2 the week ended Feb 7.

The London Emergency Service is still on alert. A decision is today whether to warn, limiting a emergency influenza.

The Royal College Practitioners push cases at 276 a thousand, well below the of 918 a thousand, goes up only to 1. Some areas appear affected than others. has 264 cases a thousand. The South West has 644.

In Cardiff 412 a thousand of the city's five main hospitals. Two wards and were closed and opened for the next urgent admissions have been postponed.

Influenza is described as a liquid and infectious. If severe cases develop, get in touch doctor.

At the Central Court in London agency trial was adjourned. Two of defendants had in a juror had migr

"HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE PROPERTY WORLD"



Rt. Hon. Peter Walker PC MBE MP

Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester, former Secretary of State for the Environment and former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, talks to partners of Barrington Laurance about the future of the property market in

PROPERTY AND SOCIETY

one of four discussions in the "Barrington Laurance Symposium"

Areas covered in this discussion include:

Profit, planning permission and tax

Property attitudes abroad

Giving council homes to tenants

Rebuilding Britain

Is participation undemocratic?

Other contributors to the Barrington Laurance Symposium are Lord George-Brown, Mr Roger Opie and Sir Colin Buchanan CBE. These discussions have now been printed in booklet form and are available on request from the Symposium Secretary.

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Telephone: 01-479 6141

Fishermen face 2,400% rise in tractor licensing tax

The North of England Development Council has made a strong appeal on behalf of the inshore fishermen of Redcar, Cleveland, who, it says, will face a 2,400 per cent rise in the road fund tax payable to license their towing tractors, because of a decision by the Cleveland Justices.

The magistrates, sitting at Middlesbrough on January 5, ruled that the tractors used by the Redcar fishermen to haul their boats and catches to and from the sea could not be classed as agricultural vehicles, attracting a road tax of £6.65.

In a report circulated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Department of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and northern MPs, the council says that if the decision is allowed to stand, the fishermen will become liable to pay the road tax for haulage tractors, which is £144 a year.

It points out that the tractors used by the Redcar fishermen have been licensed as agricultural vehicles for 27 years.

Calling for action to reduce the road fund tax burden on fishing professional, full-time fishermen, it states that the magistrates' decision threatened the continuance of Redcar as a viable fishing centre.

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Bench war on violence football

Goals scored in Palace during the game against Chelsea on off-violent scenes, as a Stamford Bridge Magistrate's court, yesterday, was stated a Road Magistrates' minister, yesterday, supporters were threatening both other offences.

Mr Roderick, magistrate, said: "The behaviour of the supporters was a disgrace. I have called Ronald Hampton, Flaxman Road, who admitted of police. Thirteen were remanded on bail.

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Warning

WEST EUROPE

Spanish King given tepid welcome by Catalans

From Harry Debellus

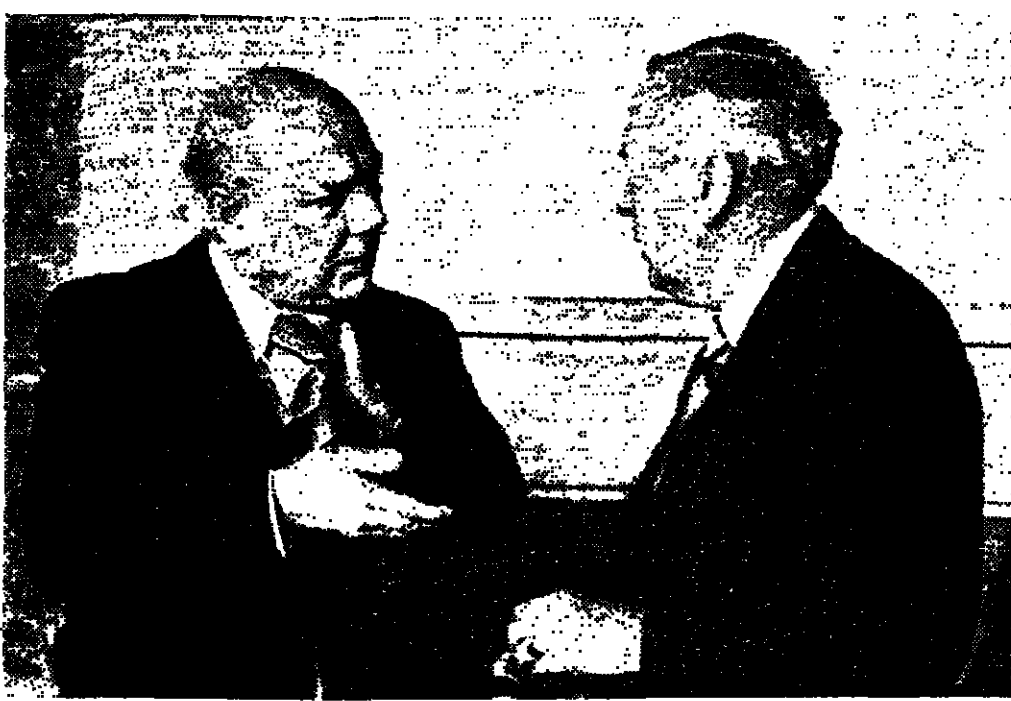
Barcelona, Feb 16. A thin line of spectators applauded politely at Barcelona airport today as King Juan Carlos arrived here on an official visit. Only a few hundred people, including many airport and airline employees, turned out to cheer the man who said in his inaugural speech that he wanted to be the King of all Spaniards.

The lack of public enthusiasm seemed to reflect the predictions of most Catalan opposition groups who had said that the people of Catalonia would simply ignore the King.

The apparent object of the royal visit is to calm down the agitation of the Catalan people for home rule. Unconfirmed reports said that as Spain's next Cabinet meeting, which will be held here on Friday with the King presiding, measures would be taken to ensure a degree of economic autonomy for the Catalan region.

Over the next few days, the King will travel through towns and villages in the four Catalan provinces. Señor Joaquín Vioja, Secretary of the Catalan Government, in a message issued before the King arrived, said: "The King wants to open a wide and extensive dialogue with the city and with all Catalonia. He will hold work sessions, will meet authorities... to know better our way of thinking and our problems."

Whether the King is disposed to look at the problems in the same light as most of the Catalan politicians in opposition is doubtful. Señor Wilfredo Espina, a well-known columnist, wrote in the daily newspaper *El Correo Catalán*: "The first, the most deeply felt and the most spectacular of the claims of that people with whom you will have an encounter... in this first royal trip, will be the rigorous desire to see itself recognized as just that, as a people: to be treated not merely as a piece of geography, but as a small personality, with all its virtues or defects, with its rights and responsibilities, to decide its destiny, administer its own affairs and live with the other Spanish peoples."



Mr Joop den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, with Mr Wilson during talks at 10 Downing Street yesterday which included the economic situation.

Treaty signed to save Mediterranean coast

Barcelona, Feb 16.—Twelve countries signed a treaty today to end years of neglect which have spoiled holiday beaches and polluted fish on sunny Mediterranean coasts where 200 million people are expected to be living by the year 2000.

Senor Fernando de Ybarra, Spanish chairman of the two-week conference which drafted the treaty, said there have been dire predictions that the Mediterranean, which washes the shores of 18 countries, would die by the end of this century.

"With the agreement reached here, not only will it not die but it will recover," he told the closing session. The treaty and two protocols were signed by Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Turkey.

Yugoslavia, Libya, Syria and Tunisia did not sign because their Governments wanted more time to study the text.

conference sources said. All the Mediterranean coastal states except Albania and Algeria attended the conference, which listed substances that could not be dumped into the sea and others whose dumping would require special permits.

Dr Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which sponsored the conference, said: "This marks a turning point in the fight to halt contamination of the Mediterranean."

One of the main decisions was to set up a regional centre in Malta, costing \$1.7m (about £335,000) over the next five years, to spot oil spills and direct efforts to dissolve them before they spoil holiday beaches.

Mr Hamed Sultan, the Egyptian delegate, said: "The Mediterranean is no longer a sea of peace and good hope."

Britain may lose EEC gain on beef

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Feb 16

Agricultural ministers of the Nine embarked today on the first of a final series of negotiations on farm support prices for the 1976-77 crop year. Beef, dairy products, cereals and wine were still the main obstacles to agreement, and the chances of completing the negotiations on time, by the end of this month, seemed to be growing less.

Many ministers argued that the disturbances on the European exchange markets had made it difficult to agree on realistic price levels.

Three different sets of proposals are now in circulation. The European Commission has suggested average farm price increases of 7.5 per cent, which Britain is alone in thinking too high. Copa, the organization which represents the EEC's nine million farmers, has called for a 10.6 per cent increase.

Parliament has recommended a 9.5 per cent rise.

The differences are not so great: it is the details of the Commission's overall price recommendations that are causing most difficulty. Among these is the proposal to phase out Britain's special system of beef market support, whose retention was one of the main gains of Mr Wilson's renegotiation of EEC membership.

But British officials are confident that this has made it possible to allow to continue making direct payments to producers to supplement the normal Community system, whereby farmers' prices are guaranteed by support buying. Britain argued that this has made it possible to keep the price to the consumer relatively low and avoid the accumulation of costly stockpiles of deteriorating meat.

Mr Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, will eventually get his way on beef, but Brussels observers believe it will be at the price of having to abandon some of his other demands. Britain is anxious for example, to get its EEC partners to agree to a much larger contribution to the consumer subsidy on butter to offset a proposed price rise of about £130 a ton in the spring.

trade unions and professional organizations that have offices in Brussels, and results in poor press coverage.

The need for MPs to work in three separate locations not only involves wasted travelling time. The costs of moving people and documents for meetings and of duplicating basic equipment and buildings are prohibitive, Mr Patijn says.

No decision can be taken without the express approval of member governments, who originally fixed the temporary seats of the Community's institutions, but Mr Patijn feels that the first directly elected Parliament should not have its efficiency impaired simply because the Nine are unable to take a final decision. He hopes that this will be based on the concept of as much centralization as possible.

All MPs do not agree on the advisability of raising the question of the future seat of the parliament, and, by extension, the sites of the Community's other institutions. Mr Georges Spénale, the President (Speaker), for example, is known to feel that a dispute could jeopardize the present timetable for direct elections.

One practical reason for the Parliament not abandoning Strasbourg is the size of the new Council of Europe building. This will accommodate the extra MPs likely to be elected to the assembly without any trouble. The assembly's other main chamber in Luxembourg has been built with only enough seats for the present complement of 198 MPs.

This prevents MPs from consulting interested parties, like

made a point of taking Mr Schöten, an influential Dutch Socialist MP, and a group of journalists on a guided tour of its new premises. Mr Patijn, who drew up the Parliament's original draft convention for direct elections, has been given the role of drawing up a plan for the seat of the Community's institutions for the political affairs committee of the assembly.

After the visit, he said he was impressed with the facilities the new building would offer members of the European Parliament, but unfortunately it had been built in the wrong place. "It is a great shame that we cannot move it to the Rue de la Loi in Brussels," he said. This is where the European Commission and the Council of Ministers have their headquarters.

Mr Patijn believes that most European MPs are fully behind his view that a final decision on the seat of the Parliament should be taken in the very near future. Nearly all of them agree that the political, administrative and financial disadvantages of several places of work affect the efficiency and the effectiveness of the assembly, he says.

Among the political disadvantages, he cites the distance of more than 130 miles which separates the Parliament's headquarters in Luxembourg from the main seats of the Commission and Council of Ministers in Brussels.

This prevents MPs from consulting interested parties, like

Yugoslav Premier visits Paris

Paris, Feb 16.—Mr Djindjic, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, arrived here today for a three-day official visit during which he will lunch with President Giscard d'Estaing and meet French industrial leaders.

OVERSEAS

African leaders' links with Pretoria policy on Angola war are revealed

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Feb 16. Little by little the South African public is being informed about the real extent of the country's abortive military intervention in the Angolan civil war.

One of the fullest accounts of South Africa's direct support for the pro-Western National Front (NF) and the Uniao Nacional para a Total Independencia (Unita) has been given in a report in the pro-Government Afrikaans newspaper *Report*.

It is based on an interview by a Johannesburg correspondent with Mr Bill Coughlin, an assistant to Senator John Tunney, who had talks with FNLA, Unita and South African leaders last month.

The report tells how, when and where South African troops became involved in the Angolan conflict against the left-wing Popular Movement (MPLA). In doing so it exposes the credibility gap that has developed between what the country's leaders have been saying in public and what in fact was really happening.

The most interesting point about the report is that it was published at all in a paper that has close Government connections. Its purpose, it would seem, is to prepare the way for the expected contacts between South Africa and the MPLA by constructing the case for the only group involved in the first place because it was requested to do so by the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, and by several black African states.

According to Mr Coughlin, who will be presenting his findings to the United States Senate's Africa committee later this week, Dr Savimbi paid two visits to South Africa to plead for military assistance. This much has been unofficially confirmed here. At the same time, President Mubutu of Zaire, President Houphouët-Boigny of the Ivory Coast and President Banda of Malawi all asked South Africa to intervene militarily to stop the Russian and Cuban-backed MPLA.

Dr Savimbi told Mr Coughlin, according to *Report*, that South Africa's attitude had at all

times been "painfully correct" and the South Africans had never acted without the approval of Zaire, Zambia and the Ivory Coast.

If the sequence of events as recounted by Dr Savimbi to Mr Coughlin is correct, and there seems little doubt that it is, then it is clear that the massive influx of Russian military equipment and Cuban soldiers was prompted by the invasion of southern Angola by the South African-led flying column.

According to Dr Savimbi, it became evident at the end of September that Unita was going to need help. First he contacted President Mubutu who provided him with 11 armoured cars, shortly afterwards, in October, President Mubutu informed him that there was "an American friend" who wanted to help.

The American, according to the report, said no American troops would be sent to Angola but weapons would be supplied. These duly arrived but were mainly small arms and not sufficient to match the Soviet equipment which the MPLA was beginning to receive. So Dr Savimbi asked the Presidents of Zambia and Ivory Coast to send South African help and in mid-October a South African force of between 1,200 and

1,500 men stormed up the Angolan coast towards Luanda.

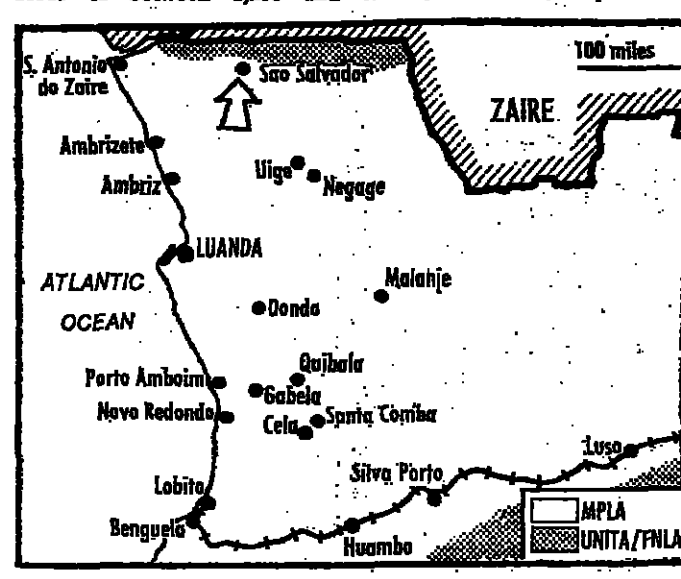
According to *Report*, this was the turning point of the war. When the Russians saw that the MPLA's capital was being threatened from the north and the south and the movement was in danger of being crushed they flew in large quantities of weapons and Cuban troops to keep the MPLA going.

The report adds that during Dr Savimbi's first visit to South Africa on December 20 he had a meeting with Mr John Vorster, the Prime Minister. This was arranged by President Kaunda.

Meanwhile, the South African Cabinet is due to meet tomorrow to discuss the question of establishing contact and possibly recognizing the MPLA.

Senior Government sources make clear that there have been no direct talks between the two sides so far although these may possibly take place in Parliament today.

In Parliament today a leading Nationalist Party MP, Mr Paul van der Merwe, who was clearly representing the Cabinet position, said South Africa would have no problem in recognizing the MPLA as long as the Government of Angola so long as its interests in the Cuanene river scheme were respected.



Mercenaries are given secret telephone number

By Stewart Tendler

British mercenaries returning from Angola have been given a secret telephone number in Zaire to make contact if they want to return to the war.

The number, in Kinshasa, was distributed to some of the 45 men who came home last week. They were told that could return to the war by telephone and flights to Kinshasa would be arranged.

The incentive for the men to return is a pay increase of £100 a week, taking their pay up to £1,000 a week. Their return is being offered directly by the National Front (NF), rather than any middle men and the salaries would be paid in Kinshasa.

As the war progresses in favour of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the mercenaries are being used as part of a guerrilla force probably working on the border between Zaire and Angola.

But the position of the mercenaries is growing more difficult since the government there announced it would not allow the men passage to Angola. Yesterday 22 men—20 Britons and two Frenchmen—were intercepted at Kinshasa by immigration officials who plan to deport them.

The mercenaries said this happened on February 2 in front of 10 other mercenaries. But other mercenaries now in Britain said yesterday they had heard nothing of the second executions.

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Dr Kissinger sets out on S American tour

From Fred Emery

Washington, Feb 16. Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, today left Washington on a long-planned and postponed visit to Latin America. Reports of a terrorist attack on the American Embassy at his first stop, Caracas, Venezuela, did not deter him.

The State Department denied the first report, from Cuban news agency, of a shooting incident, and said it had information about later rumours of a bombing. "They were told us they had anything planned, and they have not," Dr Kissinger is visiting countries in nine days: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, as well as Venezuela. He first announced his journey two years ago at a ministerial meeting of the Organization of American States in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. It was to have been a follow-up to a "new dialogue" he had claimed in 1973 as the start for hemispheric relations.

Since then, other things have gone in the way, notably the East-West shuttle diplomacy, the collapse in Indo-China, the peace and China summit, and, lately, Angola. Lately, American officials have been in Washington and this is one of reassurance and mending.

American diplomats see the Panama canal as the reversal of a severe state of Panama as the issues causing co. and strain in relations. The old right wing, for instance, is loudly opposing it "to up" the canal zone.

However, there are obvious wider issues of concern. Argentina poses large problems about stability; Venezuela as a major United States partner and oil supplier, has nationalized its oil industry, an important contribution to energy supplies. There are Cuba, Thailand, and intervention. The United is no longer seeking "notion" with Havana.

Before he left, Dr Kissinger promised that he was not "on a crusade against" in truth, for all the "crusade" of revolution in Africa by Cuba, the its relations with Latin countries has large settled. Once the United gave up its formal opposition within the OAS, the countries were free to go over to relations with Havana.

There is an irony here, of the nations that campaign hardest against the United States for a lifting of the sanctions on Cuba agree, at least, that the American fighting suggests the American has a point.

Dr Kissinger will also be seeking to reassure his American hosts about the doubts, which he has helped to remove, over the conduct of American foreign policy. He will be faced with increasing demands for preferential treatment from countries have seen Congress harden attitudes and, most recently, Angola, disavowed Secretary of State.

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Demonstrations broken up in Vitoria

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Feb 16

Riot police today broke up a series of demonstrations in Vitoria, northern Spain, when hundreds of workers called for a general strike. They broke up a similar demonstration in the town yesterday.

Workers held meetings at factories to protest at the arrest and fining of colleagues for taking part in labour disputes. Groups of workers tried to get shop owners to close their shops in solidarity with those arrested.

The police ordered workers and students meeting in a church to leave the building.

Three thousand people demonstrated in Vigo in north-

west Spain yesterday. The demonstration was called by the illegal Democratic Junta of Galicia, a "popular front" type of organization. Demonstrators chanted for an amnesty for political prisoners and home rule for the province of Galicia.

In Madrid informed sources said that six of the eight postmen arrested on January 14 after striking postmen were called up for military service will be tried soon on charges of sedition. The other two will be tried on charges of conspiring to commit sedition. The eight could face a maximum of 12 years' imprisonment if they are found guilty. Postal workers are still under military law.

An impressive list of lawyers including Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the secretary of the illegal Spanish Workers' Socialist Party and Señor Joaquín Ruiz Giménez, Spain's foremost Christian Democratic leader, will defend the postmen.

Moving between three cities presents problems for members and officials of the EEC Parliament

Europe's MPs want to settle down

From David Cross

Brussels, Feb 16

Feeling is strengthening among members and officials of the European Parliament in favour of it having one permanent seat, close to other EEC institutions, instead of moving between Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Brussels.

A £25m building that would house parliamentary sessions is to be opened in Strasbourg at the beginning of next year. But a meeting of the Parliament's budgetary committee has come out unanimously against paying the £30,000 annual rent being asked for it—four times the cost of the present accommodation.

This works out at more than £10,000 a day if the Parliament continues to hold six of its 11 working sessions a year in

OVERSEAS

Bribery allegations
are rejected
by Japanese airline

Peter Hazelhurst
Feb 16

ch to the relief of the
Government, leading
cases involved in the Lock-
heed bribery scandal told a
committee of the Japanese
House of Representatives
today that the Lockheed
aircraft corporation had no
purpose to the CSU or to
any other group.

The letter is a response to
a continuing stream of press
reports that the Lockheed
aircraft corporation had
accepted secret payments
from the American aircraft
manufacturer.

Mr. Kenji Kato, who is a close friend of
Prime Minister Tanaka, the former
Minister of the Japanese
House of Representatives, and a
senior member of the CSU, said
that he had met Mr. Kato
and had seen the Lockheed
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US to have
navigation
base in
Australia

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Feb 16

Mr. Fraser, the Australian
Prime Minister, gave his support
today to American plans
to build a controversial Omega
communications base in
Australia. He said: "It is a
navigation device and the
number of countries round the
world are participating in it. I
cannot see why Australia should
not."

The question of the Omega
base has been a foreign policy
controversy in Australia and
New Zealand for nearly seven
years. Mr. Fraser's endorse-
ment of the base now is a
green light for Washington to
go ahead with the Australian
base, which is the last one in a
world-wide network of eight
super-accurate navigation and
communications stations
designed to last well into the
next century.

For three years the Australia-
base has been the issue
between Washington and
most frequently and firmly
with the Australian political
leaders. The Americans want
the base built somewhere in
southeast Australia close to
the Tasman Sea.

The other seven Omega
bases are either operating or
undergoing their final tests or
are in the last stages of con-
struction. They are in North
Dakota, Norway, Liberia,
Japan, Hawaii, Argentina and
Kenia Island in the Pacific.

The Soviet Union also has
three similar transmitters
which American defence
experts believe are designed to
improve Russian commercial
and military communications
throughout the Arctic, north
Pacific and North Atlantic
areas.

Despite American
denials that the Omega's
purpose is military, the Pentagon
has always been especially
enthusiastic about them if only
for the obvious reason that
American and allied military
aircraft and warships would
also use them.

**Austrian leader
has talks in
Czechoslovakia**

Prague, Feb 16.—Dr. Kreisky,
the Austrian Chancellor, and
his host, Mr. Lubomir Strougal,
the Czechoslovak Prime Minister,
discussed bilateral relations
and economic cooperation at a
private meeting in Prague today.

Dr. Kreisky, who arrived this
morning on a special train for
the first visit here by an Aus-
trian Chancellor for 40 years,
held a wreath at the memorial
of the Unknown Warrior.

The two leaders discussed "a
wide range of questions con-
cerning the further develop-
ment of relations between
Czechoslovakia and Austria."

Transkei to do away with racial
barriers on independence day

By Roger Berthoud

A look of irritation passes
over the cheerful features of
Miss Stella Sigau, Minister of
the Interior of Transkei, at the
suggestion that she and her
fellow ministers are tame
creatures of the South African
Government in Pretoria.

Miss Sigau, who has been
visiting Britain at the invita-
tion of the Foreign Office, is
emphatic that when the
Transkei becomes the first of
the "homelands" to achieve
independence on October 26, it
will be genuinely independent;
but she admits that whether
the outside world will recognize
this is another matter.

A measure of self-government
was first introduced in 1964.
In October, Pretoria will com-
plete the handover by relin-
quishing control of defence
and foreign policy. Miss Sigau,
a former school teacher, was
elected to the National
Assembly in 1965, says:

"Transkei will become a
republic with its own state
president. Until recently there
has been racial apartheid—at the
beaches, in the post office at
Umtata (the capital); but we
shall have no racial barriers.
Our people have always said
they do not care for racial
discrimination of any kind.
Apartheid was simply a
springboard or lever towards
independence."

Miss Sigau completely re-
jects the term Bantustan,
pointing out that the Transkei
was a territorial entity when the
British annexed it in 1894 and
handed it over to the Union
of South Africa in 1910. It
therefore has as good a claim
historically to recognition as
the former British protectorate of
Botswana, Lesotho and Swa-
ziland, let alone South-West
Africa, all of which have many
fewer people. The Transkei's
London representative puts its
basic population at four million
Miss Sigau says that as self-
government progressed, some of

the white population left,
though 10,000 or more remain
and seem ready to cooperate.
"We have made good progress
with our territorial claims. We
have 200 miles of coast, and
got Port St. Johns last
December.

"There were about 15 'white
spots' (enclaves reserved for
whites), but there are now
none. Independence for us
however, means that we will give
up our remaining claim to three
more districts."

There are hopes that outside
investment will aid the
Transkei's economic indepen-
dence, not least by harnessing
hydropower from the Umzimvubu
river. Meanwhile, indepen-
dence will mean complete
freedom to levy taxes and
reform land ownership, if
necessary.

The Transkeians want to
make independence a success,
and hope that it might have
 repercussions beyond their
borders, not least in the field
of racial relations.

Former minister
to face
electoral charges

Canberra, Feb 16.—Legal
proceedings are to be taken
against Mr. Victor Garland, the
former Minister for Posts and
Telegraphs, after a police in-
vestigation of an incident dur-
ing last year's general election
campaign. Mr. Robert Ellicott,
the Attorney General, said
today.

The proceedings against Mr.
Garland and Mr. George Branson,
a Liberal party senator, would
be taken under a section of
the Electoral Act dealing
with bribery, he added.

Mr. Garland became Minister
for Posts and Telegraphs when
the Liberals were returned to
power last December. He
resigned the portfolio 10 days
ago when Mr. Fraser, the
Prime Minister, told him
that allegations made by an
unsuccessful independent
candidate in the December elec-
tion, Mr. Michael Cavanough,
would be investigated by the
police.

Two shot dead in Addis
Ababa wave of arrests

Addis Ababa, Feb 16.—The
Ethiopian Provisional Military
Government announced today
that its security forces had
killed a retired major-general
and a former district adminis-
trator, both opponents of the
regime.

The Government also said in
a broadcast that an undisclosed
number of other "conspirators"
had been arrested and
detained in the past week.

It gave the names of those
killed in two separate incidents
Major-General Kebede
Worku, former commander of
the imperial guard, and Mr.
Makonnen Wossen, a landlord
and former administrator of a
district just outside Addis
Ababa.

It said that the two were
asked to surrender, and when
they refused, the security forces
opened fire. General Kebede
was shot in an exchange of fire
at his home in a suburb of
Addis Ababa.

Those arrested are believed
to include the widows of some
of the members of the imperial
regime executed in November,
1974. Two former bank direc-
tors and their wives were also
reported to have been arrested.
—UPI and Agence France-
Presse.

Bombs mark start of
protest lockout by
businessmen in Argentina

Buenos Aires, Feb 16.—Bomb
explosions in the Argentine
capital and neighbouring La
Plata today marked the start of
a nationwide 24-hour lockout by
businessmen protesting at the
country's rapid economic
decline under Peronist rule.

Bomb blasts before dawn
wrecked five Fiat motor show-
rooms in Buenos Aires and two
bank branches in La Plata, 25
miles to the south. There were
no injuries. Banks said multi-
national corporations operating
here have expressed sympathy
with the lockout, but have not
joined in. There was no
immediate indication who was
responsible for the attacks.

At midday, unidentified men
hurled petrol bombs at the
closed doors of the influential
Argentine Rural Society in one
of the main shopping streets
of the capital. The doors were
slightly burnt, but again there
were no injuries. Every shop
along the street of 10 blocks
was closed.

The lockout went ahead to-
day in defiance of a Government
warning that the full rigour of
the law would be applied
against its organizers, who are
affiliates and sympathizers of
Argentina's Permanent Assem-
bly of Businessmen (APEGE).

The APEGE, protesting
against Government policies
which it says have brought
Argentina to the verge of
bankruptcy, says it expects 90

per cent of the nation's busi-
nessmen, farmers and services
to shut down during the protest.
The lockout—the first
employers' strike ever held
throughout Argentina—coincides
with mounting demands for
the removal of President
Isabel Peron and open warnings
that a military coup may be in
the offing.

Communist trains and buses
from the Buenos Aires suburbs
were half empty—employers
have guaranteed they will pay
wages during the lockout—and
Monday morning rush-hour
traffic was down to a trickle. In
the city centre, bars, restau-
rants, big stores, boutiques and
grocery stores, were closed.

A bakers' strike continued for
its third day, but newspapers
were on sale. Public transport
services were reduced.

APEGE, which says it has the
support of 1,200 business, indus-
trial, agricultural and service
associations totalling hundreds
of thousands of private business-
men, contends that its members
face bankruptcy unless Govern-
ment policies change.

The larger General Economic
Confederation (CGE), which
groups Peronist-oriented busi-
nessmen, is not taking part in
the strike but has left its
members free to do so. The CGE
has promised its own protest
later against the 350 per cent
inflation which has ravaged
Argentina over the past 12
months.—Reuters.

UN call to bring Chilean
'torturer' to trial

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb 16

A call for the arrest and trial
of Senator Oswaldo Romo,
allegedly "the master torturer
of Chile," was made by Mr.
Chulian Adhikari, of Pakistan,
today, when the United Nations
Commission on Human Rights
discussed its working group's
report on Chile.

Mr. Allans, chairman of the
five-member working group,
said that he would reserve the right
to reply until the commission had
heard other speakers.

terror and memories of torture
in thousands of hearts."

He urged the commission to
appeal to Chile for the release
of Senator Luis Corvalan, the
leader of the Chilean Commu-
nist Party, and 10 other
prominent figures detained
without trial for more than
two years.

Senator Sergio Dier, the Chilean
representative, said that he
would reserve the right to
reply until the commission had
heard other speakers.

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nya lands

From Our Correspondent
Feb 16

se has been caused
a Uganda Government
ment that the Defence
had backed President
demand for an expla-
nation Britain why, large
one time administered
of Uganda were trans-
ferred to Kenya and Sudan
the century.

hole of western Kenya
it of southern Sudan
one time administered
of Uganda, and Presi-
dent described the
in these areas as his
"n."

sue is not a new one
as raised often before
Uganda became inde-
pendent in 1962, but it has
been accepted that
changes in the early
period have no rele-
vance. The Organization
of Unity agrees that the
pre-independence
status cannot be changed
and Amin, however,
saying he would not go
to recover "lost" areas,
would not hesitate to
Uganda's access to the
threatened.

Chairman of the West
Christian Social Union
stated today in

Russian arms spending
was underestimated

From Henry S. Bradsher
Geneva, Feb 16

The Central Intelligence
Agency has discovered that the
Soviet Union is devoting about
twice as much of its gross
national product (GNP) to mil-
itary uses as had been esti-
mated.

The CIA information casts a
new light on Soviet attitudes
and United States relations
with Moscow that could have
significant policy implications
for America. The information
has not yet affected the Ford
administration's policy.

Agency analysts had long
assumed that Moscow used
between 6 and 8 per cent of
the nation's wealth for its armed
forces, but a comparison of new
information and reassessment of
old data has shown that mil-
itary spending for some time
has been absorbing far more.

The CIA circulated last
autumn within a tight circle of
Government specialists a new
estimate of 15 to 20 per cent of
GNP for the Soviet armed
forces. The large jump was a
result both of calculating known
elements as more expensive
than previously realized, and of
including things not earlier
known to be part of the Soviet
military picture.

Although many Pentagon
analysts agree with the 15 to
20 per cent estimate, it drew
criticism from several direc-
tions as being too high for
several reasons, and is now
being restudied. Several sources
say that final assessment,
expected to be reached in
March or April, will be between
14 and 17 per cent. One source
says it might be as low as 10
to 12 per cent.

Current United States defence
appropriations are about 6 per
cent of GNP. A direct compari-
son of Soviet and American
military spending is not easy,
involving many of the statistical
and conceptual difficulties
which have always made esti-
mates of the Kremlin's arms
programme complicated and
subject to error.

The realization that defence
spending is roughly twice as
large as thought in the strained
Soviet economy, indicates a
higher priority for military
power than has long been
assumed in CIA estimates of
Soviet policies. CIA evaluations
are the basis for United States
Government thinking on the
subject, although some outside
estimates of the GNP percent-
age have long been higher.—
Washington Star.

ival of Cuban 'advisers'
causes alarm

From Our Correspondent
Feb 16

ence sources in Hong-
Kong, an embarrassed
Laos, the Laotian envoy
told that Cuban
s' who have suddenly
in Laos are only
al "technicians" and
tural experts."

ly pointed out that
poppy-growing Laos
develop the pro-
tobacco and sugar,
crops on which Cuba
give advice. It is
said that the peace-
loving "advisers", who
immediately arrived and
to total at least 500,
have more plausible
als as "technical" and
advisers."

ne's partial and nervous
of the unprecedented
of Cubans in South-
east Asia has already
in Peking, already
of Moscow in
a putative Angola sen-

up which could directly involve
China", one military intelli-
gence source said in Hong-
Kong. "The Chinese Army, after
all, is heavily dog-in in northern
Laos, controlling the double-
lane highway which Chinese
armyworkers have built to the
Mekong river border with
Thailand, converting the two
northern provinces of Laos into
a Chinese buffer state."

The arrival of the Cuban
"advisers" and the Vietnamese
military operations in Laos,
along the old Ho Chi Minh trail,
linking North Vietnam with
Cambodia on the South Vietnam
border, have come after a recent
systematic expansion of anti-
communist guerrilla activities in
Laos. These have been rein-
forced by the return of former
mountain tribesmen and by
military supplies from refugee
camps in north-eastern
Thailand.

The divided and unstable
Government in Bangkok, pre-
paring for another con-
tested election, may now be com-
pelled to consider priorities in its
diplomatic approaches to both
Peking and Hanoi.

Vietnamese use
US tanks to
build new plant

Saigon, Feb 16.—Parts of
captured American tanks and
armoured cars have been used
in the building of South Viet-
nam's first fertilizer plant, the
Saigon newspaper Liberation
reported.

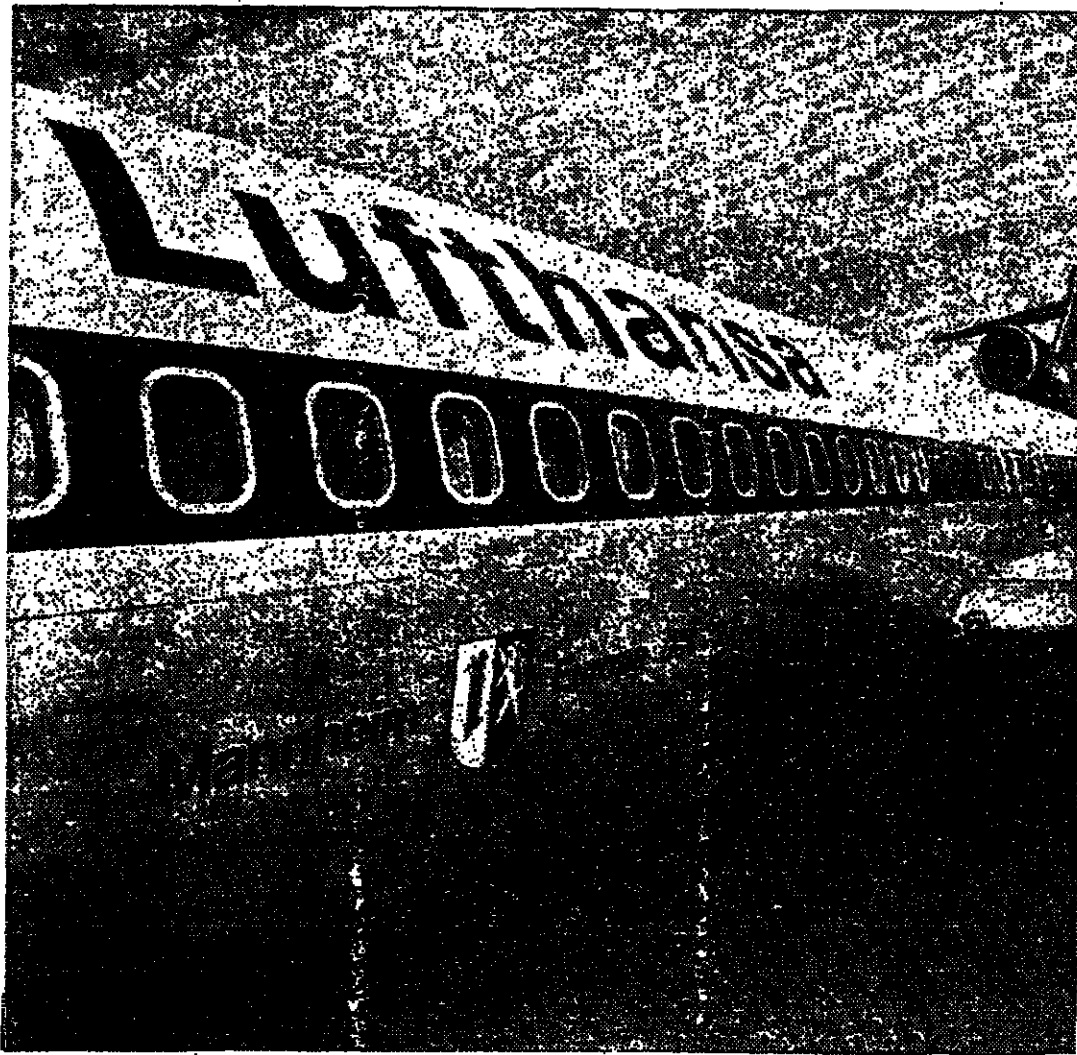
It said that scrap iron from
former United States ware-
houses in the port city of Da
Nang, and empty artillery
shells, were also used in build-
ing a mill at the plant in Quang
Da province, 500 miles north
of Saigon.

The side of the Caria was
ripped open for some 60ft,
wrecking the dining rooms.
Damage was estimated at
\$250,000 (£125,000).

**Cruise liners
damaged
in collision**

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Feb
16.—Technicians today were
trying to repair damage to two
cruise ships, the Italian Carla
and the British Cunard liner
Adventure, which collided
yesterday as they entered San
Juan bay.

The side of the Caria was
ripped open for some 60ft,
wrecking the dining rooms.
Damage was estimated at
\$250,000 (£125,000).

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Swiss in Britain

The Swiss form a community which has integrated well with its host country. There are believed to be between 18,000 and 20,000 Swiss involved in many spheres—from banking to engineering, chemicals to watch importing, transport to catering, education to medicine. This Special Report, the fourth in an occasional series on foreign communities in Britain, examines the Swiss community which speaks German, French, Italian and Romansh. Below are some of the individuals who make up that community



Willy Berner
managing director
of Frères (GB)



Walter Burren
secretary, Swiss Mercantile
Society, London



Francis de Maria
headmaster, London, and
president of Unione
Ticinese, London



William de Vigier, chairman
and managing director
Acrow (Engineers)



Alice Hoffmann de Visse
principal and founder of
Noah's Ark school for
autistic children, London



Dr Hans Egli, journalist
former president, Federation
of Swiss Societies in UK



Maria Ellis, welfare
organizer and immigration
counsellor, Folkestone



Albert Ferber
concert
pianist



Donna Frei
tailor
Stable Row



George Gysler
managing director
of Brown-Boveri



Dr Walter Hollenweger
professor, Birmingham
University, former executive
secretary, World Council of
Churches



Archbishop Bruno Heim
apostolic delegate
to Britain



Eugene Künzler
head chef
Dorchester Hotel



Alfred Kuhn
chairman and founder
Rankin Kuhn



Albert Kunz, director, Swiss
National Tourist Office
London



Mariann Meier, journalist
and delegate to the
Commission of the Swiss
Abroad



Marie-José
Pignatelli
novelist



Hugo Rast, consulting
surgeon, former honorary
senior surgeon, German
Hospital, London



Leonard Ribordy
managing director
of Ribordy (UK)



Fritz Schilling, founder of
school of English, and
Swiss consul, Bournemouth



Hanna Seewer
au pair
London



Bernard Simon, Ciba-Geigy
London, and president,
Federation of Swiss Societies
in UK



Dr Xavier Speckert
farmer and retired
international lawyer



Rev Ulrich Stefan
minister of the
Swiss Church, London



Ernst Tangemann, manager
London branch of Union
Bank of Switzerland



Dr Heinrich Wagner
professor, Queen's University
Belfast, and Swiss consul
Northern Ireland



Anton Wallman
hotelier
Cheltenham

Natural affinity with our down-to-earth ways

by Roger Bernheim

Swiss resident in will probably start a feeling of gratitude, since it was the British who, over long periods of history, kept the big countries surrounding Switzerland in a balance of power on which not only the British Empire but also, until recently, Swiss independence was largely based.

Swiss people come to England mainly to learn the language. The Swiss cannot do without English; they never could do so since the eighteenth century when some English eccentrics started climbing Swiss mountains and created tourism in Switzerland. Regrettably, Swiss hotels are no longer filled with English tourists. But with the English language has become the language of world trade and the Swiss are dependent on trading with the world.

We can learn French, German and Italian at home, but for English we have to come to England. This is fortunate, for, together with the language, we acquire some manners, a commodity not overabundant in Switzerland where the educationist's ideal of a human being is a rough diamond.

The material incentives for coming to England were stronger in former times when fortunes were to be

made in England. Some Swiss who came, especially some bankers in the eighteenth century, did make fortunes. One of them even had an inordinate windfall, having received in trust large sums from French aristocrats who, during the French Revolution, were sent to the guillotine and so never returned to claim back their money.

All sorts of people used to come from Switzerland to the British Isles: workers and entrepreneurs, servants and couriers, housekeepers, bankers, teachers, government officials, scientists, artists, and one of Winston Churchill's butlers. Some 800 Swiss soldiers and officers fought under Clive in India and one of them became Governor of Madras and another was given the Calcutta command.

Swiss people are still coming to Britain, some 4,000 every year without counting the innumerable tourists, but few come with the intention to settle. They come for fairly short periods of one or two years. There are still quite a few who change their mind at the end of their planned stay and settle permanently, either

because they married British men or women or because they enjoy a freer life in Britain than in Switzerland. But fortunes are more likely to be made elsewhere than in Britain today, and fairly few Swiss living in the United Kingdom get paid in Swiss money and gain from the shrinking of the pound.

Of the 4,000 who come to Britain every year, about half are an pair girls. Another large group consists of those who study English at a university or at a language school. Then there are those sent to Britain by their employer in Switzerland to broaden their professional experience and outlook. These are mostly people selected for managerial careers by their company.

It is true that more and more Swiss companies send their trainees to the United States rather than to Britain, to learn managerial skills, especially since the journey to America and the cost of living there in terms of Swiss francs becomes less expensive. After all, that is the country where the greatest progress in management and technology is taking place. But in some instances Britain still pro-

vides the best finishing touches—in merchant banking, for instance.

The precise number of Swiss people resident in the United Kingdom is not known. The figure lies somewhere between 18,000 and 20,000. Of these, 5,000 were born in Britain and carry dual nationality and 10,000 are settled in the United Kingdom more or less permanently.

The others are au pairs, students and trainees. Those settled permanently are by no means all in or around London; many live elsewhere, in the Midlands, in the South-west, in Scotland, in Northern Ireland.

Quite a number of Swiss living in the United Kingdom have their own businesses, some small, some large. Others work in hotels (recently the biggest contingent) as managers, chefs or at reception desks. There are Swiss in banking, trade, transport, insurance—some of them are top employees of Swiss subsidiaries in Britain.

However, most subsidiaries of the big Swiss concerns, of the multinationals, are entirely run by British people and have hardly any Swiss left.

There are Swiss teachers working in Britain, both in schools and at universities. This is part of a tradition that started in the eighteenth century when many families of the British nobility, even King George III, entrusted their children to Swiss tutors and governesses.

Swiss scientists, artists and musicians have been coming to live in England for quite some time. Some painters became Royal Academicians; there is one at present, and the first, second and fourth Keepers of the Royal Academy of Arts were Swiss.

Although some Swiss find it difficult to penetrate British circles, they do not generally cling together excessively, but try to make as many friends among the British as possible. The Swiss Centre in Leicester Square has not become the focal point for the Swiss community in London which it was originally planned to become, except for culinary purposes. And Swiss Cottage in North London has little to do with Switzerland, apart from its name.

The author is London correspondent, Neue Zürcher Zeitung.

The City that makes sense

by Derek Harris

London as a principal financial centre—a turntable for money as the international financial community regard it—has always made sense for Switzerland's bankers.

In the years when the Eurodollar market expanded as the world's great financing pool this was especially so. Swiss Bank Corporation, which was first in London a couple of years before the turn of the century, reckons its main activity in Britain has been Eurodollar operations, including organizing back-up finance for industrial and other customers.

This bank in London also offers a wide range of banking services, including the normal over-the-counter customer facilities from individual accounts to the handling of securities. It does not handle long-term loans in London except for tying up some Eurodollar operations. Nor has it ever taken on any property business and was duly thankful when that sector cracked in the United Kingdom.

Another two of the top Swiss banks, Crédit Suisse

and the Union Bank of Switzerland, both established themselves in London in the post-war years because of the importance of the Eurodollar market. Credit Suisse for a time had only a representative office but in the autumn of 1971 it was decided London demanded a full-scale branch operation.

Neither has gone as far as the Swiss Bank Corporation in offering a full over-the-counter customer service. Generally, the pattern for all the Swiss banks is to concentrate on medium and short-term loans, often providing revolving credit for usually blue chip companies.

One Swiss banker in London—characteristically among the self-effacing Swiss financial community he insisted on anonymity—explained: "There is just nowhere quite like London as a market where all the mechanics are to hand, all the expertise you need to call on. New York has certain restrictions. A certain amount of money has gone to other centres, but these—Luxembourg, for instance—more or less fund themselves out of London anyway."

The importance of London is borne out by the number of foreign banks who have now established themselves in the City. There are now more than 330, many of them out of the United States. There has been some discussion, since the Arab's oil price gambit turned the financial tables on the western industrialized countries, whether the Eurodollar market may be due for a decline. Some Swiss bankers have argued that this might be the case because petrodollars—the vast sums generated by oil wealth, at present mainly from Arab sources—have assumed a crucial role.

Switzerland has been a big channel for Arab cash. Even big banks favoured by the oil money have had to observe natural limits if only out of consideration for their equity/deposit ratios and they have had a reluctance to become too dependent on a few large creditors.

Petrodollars have consequently flowed in quantity directly into the money and capital markets, especially in the United States. But a combination of high interest rates and traditional links with Arab interests has also seen a substantial amount go to Britain.

Of the 1974 petrodollar pool of \$5,000m, for instance, it is estimated that, while 19 per cent went to the United States, another 11 per cent found its way to the United Kingdom. Some 43 per cent surged into the Eurodollar market.

One London-based Swiss banker is highly sceptical of the argument that the Euro-

cussion, since the Arab's oil price gambit turned the financial tables on the western industrialized countries, whether the Eurodollar market may be due for a decline. Some Swiss bankers have argued that this might be the case because petrodollars—the vast sums generated by oil wealth, at present mainly from Arab sources—have assumed a crucial role.

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One London-based Swiss banker is highly sceptical of the argument that the Euro-

continued on page IV

For the fourteenth time

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Earnest belief in multilateral diplomacy

by Roger Berthoud

Ernesto Thalmann: the name of the incoming Swiss Ambassador is itself a reminder of the cultural variety of Switzerland. Like his predecessor, Herr Albert Weismann, with whom he has exchanged the post of Secretary General of the Federal Political Department, as the Swiss Foreign Ministry is called, Herr Thalmann is from the German-speaking part of Switzerland.

But he was born and spent the first six years of his life in the canton of Ticino, where his father had founded Switzerland's first silk mill for weaving artificial silk. The business collapsed after the First World War and the family eventually settled in Zurich.

The new ambassador is earnest by nature as well as name. Now 61, he is grey-haired, bespectacled, courteous and on his own admission rather a pessimist. Nevertheless, he believes that the difficulties which loom ahead could be solved by efficient multilateral diplomacy and by an effort of good will from all concerned.

Looking farther ahead to the next 50 or 100 years, he fears that conditions on our planet will change so fundamentally that the patterns of life and the social system of the western world will suffer drastic and probably unpleasant mutations. But he believes resignation should be fought against, and no effort should be spared to search for reasonable solutions in a stubbornly constructive way.

Herr Thalmann joined the Swiss diplomatic service in 1945 after graduating in law and practising in Zurich. During and after the war he put in 952 days of military service, first in the artillery then in a military court.

In his 30 years as a diplomat he has served in Paris, Prague, Cairo (including a spell in charge of British interests after Suez), Washington, the United Nations (as permanent observer), and briefly in Jerusalem where he wrote a report, based on first-hand interviews, for U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations at that time, on the situation in the Holy City after the Six-Day War. Among countries he has visited are the Soviet Union and China.

He admits that being a Swiss diplomat is probably a less exciting business than being a British one, espe-



The new Swiss Ambassador and his wife.

cially perhaps at the time of the Swiss civil war. He has as many and as strong views as they like about international affairs. But the Government, mindful of Switzerland's neutrality, lack of raw materials making it particularly vulnerable to speak his mind on international issues. The Swiss are more reserved, partly because of their collegial system of government. In this sense the country's highly developed federalism and its neutrality are mutually reinforcing.

Today even small countries cannot escape from and more. Switzerland is links between the two coun-

tries, he brought over with him from Zurich, a canvas by a Swiss painter who enriched British culture, Fuseli.

Not all the vibrations touched off by the word "Swiss" are positive, and an ambassador must nurture his mother country's image. He believes that male chauvinism, fostered by a marked dearth of militant women, is no longer a Swiss speciality. His wife, Paula, practised as a dentist until the first of their three children (now aged 28, 25 and 17) was born, when she then agreed to share the duties of diplomatic life with her husband. With her able and intelligent Swiss diplomats at his side, there is little doubt that Herr Thalmann will succeed in reputation as something much more important than a prosperous tax haven, namely a force for sanity, tolerance, moderation and peace.

having to defend its multi-lateral interests. Herr Thalmann is evidently proud that Switzerland is active in the north-south dialogue, its landlocked situation and lack of raw materials making it particularly vulnerable to speak his mind on international issues. The Swiss are more reserved, partly because of their collegial system of government. In this sense the country's highly developed federalism and its neutrality are mutually reinforcing.

Great era of business expansion

by Hans Egli

Although several Swiss bankers and traders of high repute had already established themselves in London in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the more intensive Swiss participation in British business came into its own only after 1900.

Transport has attracted about half a dozen Swiss firms such as MAT, Acme, Panalpina, Cosmos and Union Transport. Working mainly as subsidiaries or agents of big firms in Switzerland they hold a major share of the tonnage movements in both directions between the two countries and often far beyond.

The greatest expansion of Swiss business participation in Britain, however, has taken place mainly between the two world wars and since 1945, in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, in engineering and in precision products.

Both the introduction of high duties on key industries in 1918 and the expansion of protection in the 1930s encouraged Swiss firms to expand their production, or to form subsidiaries, in order to secure the advantages both of protection in Britain and preferential entry to Commonwealth markets.

This trend continued well into the prosperous 1950s and early 1960s, until the formation of EFTA and, later, Britain's entry into the EEC much diminished the value of the manufacturing foothold in Britain and the Commonwealth.

While most of the older Swiss firms in engineering, particularly in engineering and chemicals, even profited from the challenge of brisker competition, the more recently established (and mainly smaller) factories in precision work and silk weaving often failed to survive the changing circumstances.

Three Swiss silk firms in Dufurmline closed in the early 1960s and farther south only two, Selectus in Biddulph and Oberland Silks in Macclesfield, maintained themselves, mainly thanks to high specialization and subsidiary production lines.

The most successful enterprise in the related area of artificial fibres, British Celanese, founded by the Swiss scientist Dreyfous, has long since been absorbed by Courtauld.

In chemicals and pharmaceuticals the subsidiaries of the three big concerns of Basle, established before the First World War or soon after, including the jointly held Clayton Aniline, go from strength to strength.

Ciba-Geigy, Hoffmann La Roche and Sandoz supply pharmaceutical products and

medical equipment as well as chemicals for textiles. Again in this branch, a leading firm of Swiss origin, Brunner Mond, was absorbed by ICI as its main constituent part after the First World War.

In engineering Sulzer Bros has long since captured and maintained an almost dominant position in the British diesel engine market as well as worldwide. In Britain, as elsewhere, a third of marine engines are being produced by Sulzer or under Sulzer licences. And even now more than half the main-line diesel locomotives of British Rail have Sulzer engines. Sulzer's weaving machines also contributed a good share to the modernization of the British textile industry, including Courtaulds.

Almost as large an employer in Britain is the Alusuisse Group with various factories in Shropshire and Wales (Star Aluminium). The much older Swiss metal company, Georg Fischer of Schaffhausen, has important production units in Bedford for iron castings and pipe fittings and in Huntingdon for plastic fittings with a total of about 1,300 employees.

Schindler Lifts, Bühler Oerlikon Machines and Bühler (Uzwil) are milling and conveying plants, and foodstuff machines are fully represented with factories or service workshops. Among independent importers, Matchless Machinery stands out with an exemplary sales and service centre at Horsham, while another Swiss firm in London, J. C. Welter, leads in the supply of sausage-making machinery, both imported and of its own manufacture.

Altogether Swiss and Anglo-Swiss engineering firms employ some 24,000 workers. The figure includes the successful Acrow concern and the recently acquired Brown Boveri-Kent. They thus surpass the more concentrated chemical firms' total of about 14,000, including Ciba-Geigy's Ifford subsidiary.

Britain holds a near monopolistic position in the sale of Swiss watches through Swiss and British organizations. These have an import value of about £30m representing seven million watches and assembled movements, compared with little more than one million annually before the last war.

This vast increase was mainly because of the rising demand for the cheaper quality watches imported predominantly through British channels with a market share of more than a half.

In spite of the increasing turnover the number of individual Swiss importers has

shrunk as the big groupings of manufacturers and exporters in Switzerland established joint representations in Britain both for reasons of economy and effectiveness in face of growing international competition.

Perhaps the biggest import groupings active in Britain are the SSIH representing about 10 important Swiss firms such as Omega and Tissot, the General Watch Co. of La Chaux-de-Fonds, and a grouping of similar size for the Longines and Eterna and Foreign Press Association.

Attraction has lasted for centuries

by Mariann Meier

The Swiss, on the whole, feel at home in Britain. They easily integrate and their needs for purely Swiss links are small. Britain has been an attraction for Swiss citizens for centuries, yet it was not until 1703 that the first known Swiss society in the British Isles was constituted: Société des Suisses de Londres, later Société de Secours Mutuels, which was dissolved only a few years ago.

In 1762, the Eglise Suisse de Londres was founded. Today its young clubs are of particular importance; they look after hundreds of young Swiss living temporarily in London. The Protestant and the Catholic communities—the Swiss Catholic Mission was established in 1942—work closely together in this essential task.

Also under the patronage of the churches are the Swiss YMCA (founded 1888), an active women's union and produce garments for needy compatriots in care of the Swiss Benevolent Society. That, too, looks back on well over a century. Its sterling work is supported by annual donations from Swiss nationals. There is a Swiss Benevolent Fund in Scotland and Swiss relief societies in Liverpool and Manchester.

In the same building as the Swiss Benevolent Society is the Swiss Welfare Office for Young People (opened 1949). The SBS also owns premises in Hampstead which house the Swiss Hostel for Girls.

Since Swiss are mainly concentrated in London, more institutions exist there than elsewhere. Scotland, though, boasts three clubs, one at Dunfermline, one in Edinburgh and one in the west of Scotland.

The Yorkshire Swiss Club has its headquarters in Leeds. The largest and most active organization outside London is the Swiss Club,

the smaller Chronos Holding with Avia, Cyma and Sandor. The well known Rolex watches and a few others still have their own independent representation in Britain.

Dr Egli is a former chief London correspondent of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, a former president of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London, and a former president of the Longines and Eterna and Foreign Press Association.

Manchester. It organizes a variety of events and a rifle section is attached to it. In Guernsey and Jersey, too, the Swiss have their own clubs. The number of Swiss societies, especially in London, has appreciably decreased since the 1930s. Many have stagnated, or even declined, membership. The reasons are manifold, but mostly because the immigration restrictions of the 1920s prevented large-scale arrivals.

Furthermore, there were no newcomers during the war, and subsequently excellent economic conditions in Switzerland did not exactly encourage young Swiss to settle abroad. While there are larger groups of au pair girls, students and other temporary residents than before, the younger and middle-aged settlers are in a minority. It is increasingly difficult to find men and women prepared to devote time and energy on voluntary work. Gone are the Swiss Orchestra, the Swiss Gymnastic Society and the club premises of the Schweizerbund, though this continues to function modestly as a social group.

Specialized membership is evident in the Swiss Philatelic Society and the Swiss Rifle Association which uses the Bisley Rifle Range. The Swiss Economic Council is concerned with trade and industry and acts as a clearing house for information. Apart from the churches' youth clubs, there are four associations with a large membership. The oldest for men only, is the City Swiss Club founded in 1856. It meets monthly and organizes occasional social gatherings.

The Unione Ticinese was founded in 1874 and is the society of the Italian-speaking Swiss whose members include many second and

continued on facing page

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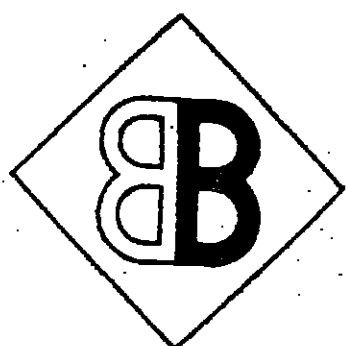
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Central showcase for industry

by Patricia Tisdall



Swiss Centre: newscaster spells out news daily...

Swiss Centre, with its restaurants and office block, is an landmark. Located West End between Circus and Leicester Square, it is intended to be a permanent exhibition for Swiss products and industry.

opened in 1965, the building was created by a partnership between three organisations whose offices are located there: the Bank Corporation, the National Tourist Office and Swissair.

three organisations a company: Swiss Centre, which was purpose-built to administer the building, was leased back from the Bank Corporation for 74.4 per cent of the cost of the building, the National Tourist Office with 10 per cent and Swissair 15.6 per cent.

occupants of offices building include the Hoe Co, Bernina Sewing Machines and Watches and the building uses offices for Swiss separate company to administer the four restaurants, a snack bar, a cafe, the gourmet and the wine and cellar.

four restaurants, Locanda, Taverna, and the wine cellar, represent a language areas: Switzerland-Romansh, Italian and French in architecture and the decor varies elegantly to rustic.

All the restaurants conditioned. The opening hours of the restaurants, specialising in Swiss food, can be found from an adjoining kiosk.

Swiss newspapers, as paperback books, cigarettes and souvenirs can be found from an adjoining kiosk.

the ground level of the centre has a branch of the Bank Corporation, the Swiss National Office and Swissair, and a permanent exhibition of Bernina Sewing Machines where, to demonstrations of machines, courses and manuals can be found.

All this activity on the lower floors of the Swiss Centre is partly to conform with planning authorities' requirements that 36 per cent of the space should be "open to the public."

This was because of concern that such a large block in the middle of an entertainment area should not be used just for offices.

However, the creation of the restaurants and shops, open to the public, also conformed with the aims of the centre which is to portray the many aspects of Switzerland's interests to the British public.

Within the restaurants, which have been designed as living exhibitions, are numerous showcases whose contents are changed frequently. It was felt possible first to draw people and second to make them think of Switzerland by offering them Swiss food to be eaten in the appropriate atmosphere and by enabling them to buy Swiss products.

The vivid floor-level displays and atmosphere are intended to bring people into the centre and can be offset against the promotional costs which would have to be spent to attract them in other ways. In this it seems to have been successful, for the centre is visited by approximately 3,000 people a day.

As for the offices, it was the original intention that they should be occupied only by Swiss firms. Ideally the centre would also house diplomatic as well as commercial interests.

But in practice this has not proved feasible. Firms need to operate in the districts of their trade. For example, jewelry companies prefer to be based in Hatton Garden rather than off Leicester Square, and finance houses prefer to trade in the City.

However, despite these difficulties, approximately 75 per cent of the space at the Swiss Centre is occupied by Swiss-owned companies.

One of the more important industries operated out of the centre is tourism, through the Swiss National Tourist Office, which in 1965 was taken over by Swiss Federal Railways.

Today, the Swiss National Tourist Office still sells rail tickets. Legally constituted as a public body it organizes and executes tourist promotion for Switzerland as a whole, both domestically and abroad. It works in close collaboration with regional, cantonal, local and other national advertising and publicity offices as well as with specialized Swiss organizations in travel and tourism.

although by 1974 their share of total foreign arrivals had dropped to about 6 per cent at 375,200 compared with total foreign arrivals of 6,239,239.

Traditionally there have been close links between the two countries on the leisure front. These date from the middle of the nineteenth century when a few Englishmen, regarded as mad by the Swiss, went mountain-climbing in the summer. As early as 1863, encouraged by the natural scenery, Thomas Cook organized his first group tour to Switzerland.

By 1893, a Federation of Swiss Tourist Associations was founded and in London, an information and publicity office was opened by the Syndicat des Interests de la Suisse Romande et du Jura-Simplon. Later this office was taken over by Swiss Federal Railways.

Today, the Swiss National Tourist Office still sells rail tickets. Legally constituted as a public body it organizes and executes tourist promotion for Switzerland as a whole, both domestically and abroad. It works in close collaboration with regional, cantonal, local and other national advertising and publicity offices as well as with specialized Swiss organizations in travel and tourism.

Entrée of the gastronomes

by Joyce Rackham



...and inside diners enjoy a meal.

and his French wife and their two children have settled happily there. He believes that his company's reputation for hotel-keeping is due to firm discipline, cleanliness and the capacity for hard work.

Few Swiss work in his hotel. "There are plenty of good jobs at home, and apart from learning English, there is little incentive for them to come with the pound sterling at its present rate."

Although the menus of the hotel's two restaurants, which attract many gourmets, include no Swiss specialties, there is a good Swiss selection in their magnificent wine list. This receives Mr Wagner's particular attention, for one of his hobbies is wine tasting.

"I always wake early, and by 6 am I am jogging around Hyde Park, back for breakfast with my wife and daughters at 7.15, and I am at my desk at eight," says Mr Michel Favre, aged 33, the lively general manager of the Portman Hotel, describes the start of his day. Born in Lausanne, the son of a restaurant owner, he worked in hotels at home and around Europe, with a spell at the Mayfair, before joining the Intercontinental group, to which the Portman belongs, in 1964. He arrived in Britain in 1973.

He first came to Britain in 1953. "I got between 25 and 34 a week for a humble job at the Savoy, but I made more in the evenings as a banqueting waiter."

Seven years later, at the age of 30, he was appointed to his first managerial post, in charge of the Prince of Wales Hotel in Kensington. He was greatly helped by that distinguished Swiss hotelier, the late M Rudolph Richard, for many years director of the Connaught.

While he cherishes his Swiss passport, Mr Wagner prefers to live in London, and his French wife and their two children have settled happily there.

among the whites the lesser-known, dry and distinctive Yvonne.

There are fewer than a dozen Swiss-owned hotels in Britain, and not all have Swiss managers. In Keswick, the four-star Lodore Swiss was opened in 1947 by Mr R. A. England and his Swiss wife. Their son has now joined them. The chef and many of the staff are Swiss.

"A little slice of Switzerland in Surrey" was a slogan once used to entice property buyers there. It might apply today to the empire of Mr Michel Anderson, a genial man from Fribourg, who opened his first restaurant in South Croydon in 1959. This is the Chateau Suisse, a replica of a country inn. He also owns the Edelweiss, opened Le Refuge, a wine bar, next door, has a shop which sells Swiss woolens, and an hotel in the vicinity called Swiss Echoes.

Denzler, in Queen Street, Edinburgh, is Scotland's only Swiss restaurant, and Mr Samuel Denzler from Zurich, who opened it with his Scottish wife in 1971, says: "We serve a hotch-potch of cuisines." This explains the presence of "haggis, neeps and tatties" next to "émmental de veau zurichoise" on the menu. Fondue does not appear. "The Scots don't like it," he says.

At the Swiss Centre, Mr Oskar Gontersweiler, the general manager, showed me his new snack bar, where sandwiches are served. Instead they serve home-made soups, quiches, sausages (also a best-seller in their shop).

Their croissants are especially popular, and these and all the wide variety of fresh breads now sold in specialties.

their shop are made in their own bakery. As a wine-lover, Mr Gontersweiler regrets the price rises which have made Swiss wines so expensive, but they list an extensive range, and still find gourmets who buy such delights as the satiny golden Dole, one of the finest Vaud wines. Swiss wines are sold from 45p a small glass.

One of London's remaining family wine firms, J. B. Reynier, lists some fine Swiss wines—it has been shipping them for more than 20 years—and finds that most trade is with hotels and restaurants. Its best-seller is probably Dole, the delicately fruity dried wine from the Valais, from the house of Orsat.

Good wines are one of the attractions at the St Moritz, a delightfully unpretentious restaurant in Wardour Street owned by Mr Armin Loetscher, who comes from Lucerne.

"The cheese with the holes in it," which those who do not know Switzerland call gruyère, and is really emmenthal, accounts for much of the sales of Swiss cheese in Britain. The Swiss Cheese Union's spokesman reports that these rose by 22 per cent over the past year, which represents more than 5 per cent of the fancy cheese market's sales of about £21m.

For fine chocolate, Switzerland has an enviable reputation, and while Lindt's British company imports most of its lines (only the Easter eggs are made in Britain) Tobler and Suchard products are made in their British factories. They recently merged, and will streamline production, while keeping their best-known specialties.

Attraction has lasted for centuries

continued from facing page

even third generation compatriots. The Swiss Mercantile Society (1888) has its own recently renovated building in Finsbury Square.

Its prime purpose is the running of a college for Swiss students of English. An average of 250 at a time attend full-time classes with a British teaching staff.

Incidentally, another successful school of English is run by a Swiss in Bourne-mouth, which at the same time provides a social meeting ground for local Swiss residents.

1916. It meets monthly, often at the Swiss Embassy since its talks and discussions are invariably concerned with Swiss matters and culture. It is the only sizable society which has a woman president.

The Anglo-Swiss Society is a British organization with approximately one-third Swiss membership. Regular meetings of the various societies and larger annual events like dances, receptions and other entertainment provide opportunities for meeting friends. On some occasions the Swiss Embassy in London and the consulate in Manchester offer hospitality. The diplomatic staff take a vigorous part in community activities.

Strangely, the Swiss National Day celebration in London organized by the societies is not the substantial gathering one might expect. The official ceremony, apart from the war years, has been attended by few residents, while the dance held later the same evening is popular with hundreds of young Swiss temporarily in London.

Swiss part in community activities.

The Swiss Church in Endell Street has become a social and cultural centre where concerts and kindred performances can be arranged for Swiss artists.

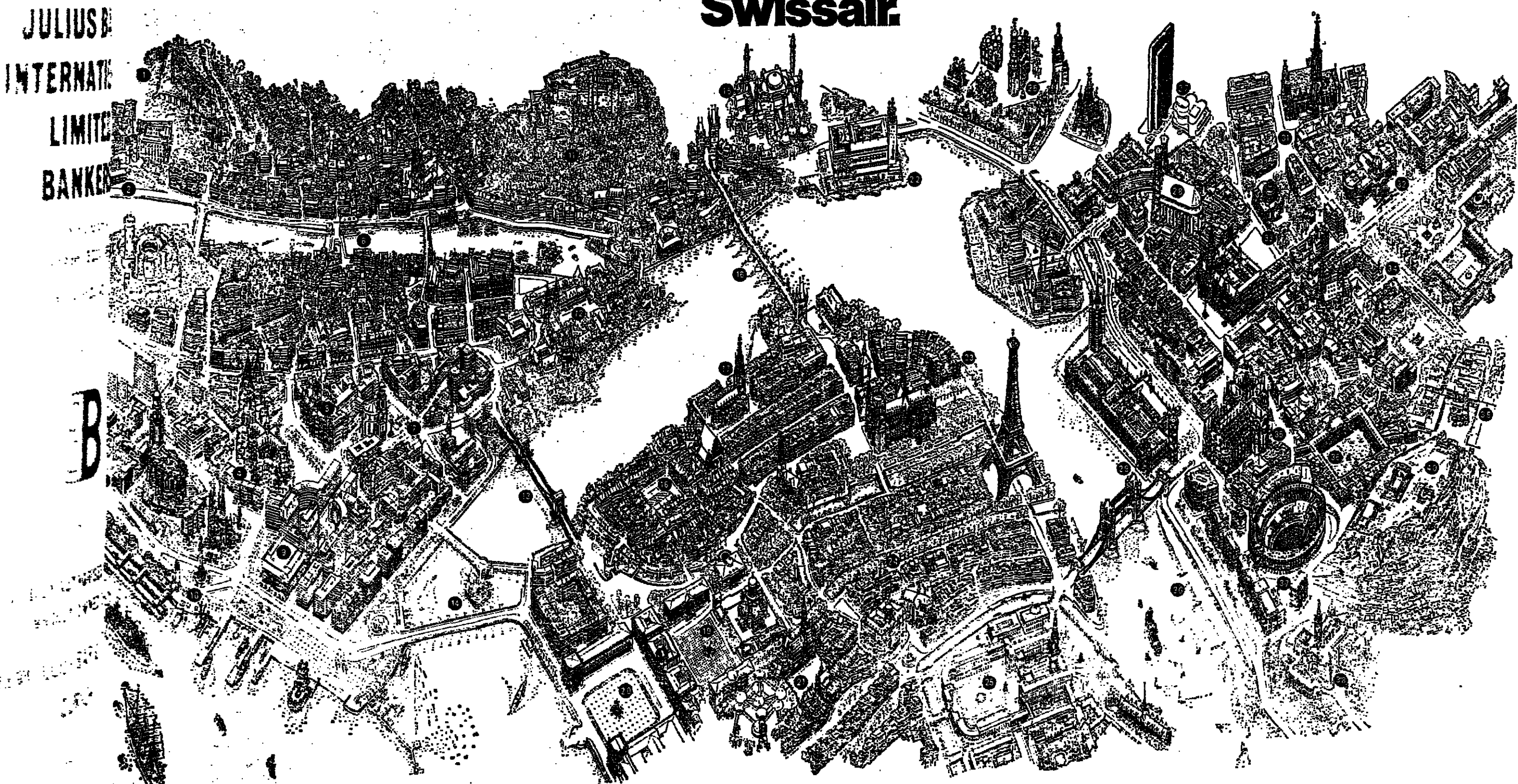
An odd feature of nearly all Swiss gatherings is that the language used is English.

It is the lingua franca for all Swiss nationals, whether of German, French or Italian mother tongue, as well as for non-Swiss wives, husbands and friends. The colony's periodical Swiss Observer, now a monthly publication rather than weekly as it was when it first appeared in 1920, is printed mainly in English for similar reasons.

Until two decades ago, there was no umbrella organization. Now the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom coordinates activities of the heterogeneous institutions. It is also the body which elects the two delegates and proxies for Britain to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad in Bern, an assembly of representatives from all parts of the world, which deals with problems of Swiss communities outside the homeland. In our case, they are insignificant, not least thanks to the friendly tolerance of our host country.

The author is a former editor of the Swiss Observer, London, and president of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London.

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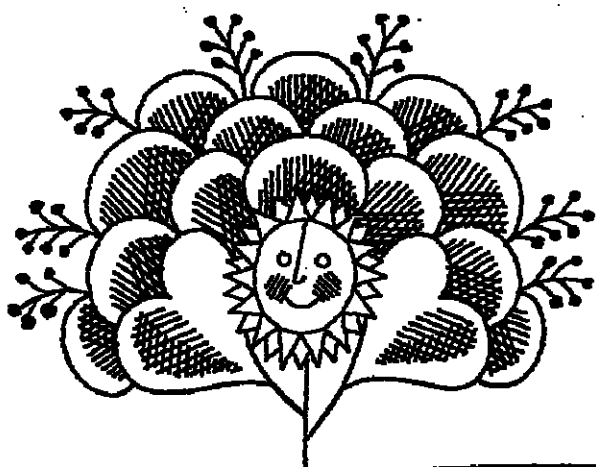
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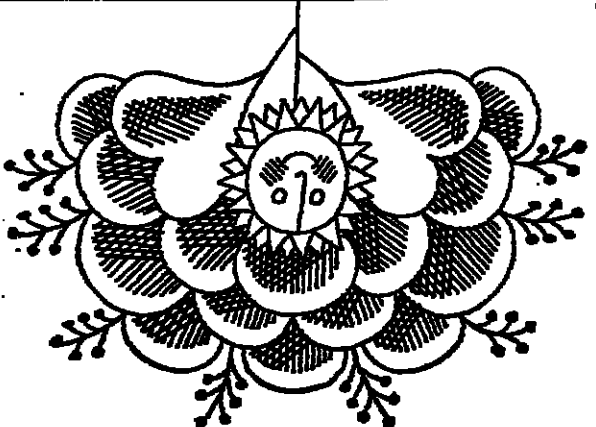


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Rare continuity of art and culture

by Donald Massie

Since the days of William the Conqueror the Swiss have made a profound contribution to the British way of life. Archbishop Lanfranc from Aosta built Canterbury Cathedral; a descendant of another Swiss built Exeter Cathedral. Yet another, Bonifacius, became Archbishop of Canterbury. From the Pays Romand many knights and clergymen came over to Britain. So, from early times there were many Swiss fighting in the king's service or serving in the church in Britain.

Indeed, the key figure in taking soundings in Britain today for the choice of new Archbishops of Westminster and Liverpool has been Archbishop Bruno Heim, aged 64, the Swiss-born papal diplomat who is the Pope's representative in Britain.

A detachment of Swiss warriors are reputed to have assisted with the building of Hadrian's Wall and there were believed to have been the equivalent of "storm-troopers" from Switzerland who took part in the Battle of Hastings. Helvetians, as the Swiss also call themselves, moved west because of Alesian pressure when the discovery of iron brought incursions of various Celtic tribes.

In coming over to Britain for hundreds of years the Swiss had a big presence in trade. They included some highly intelligent and artistic people who played their part in British history—Switzerland at that time being a poor country.

During the past century Swiss artists came to London who were hard working, efficient and rather similar to the Scots—thrifty and religious. About two thirds of the Swiss are Protestants, the remaining third Catholics. The Protestants, particularly the Calvinists from Geneva, had a great influence in Scotland.

It is interesting to know that, for example, education has been always rather more thorough in Scotland than in England, and our education in Switzerland has been far tougher", Dr Hans Egli, a Swiss doyen of foreign journalists, who has spent 40 years working in London, told me.

Among many Swiss officers in the service of the crown in the eighteenth century was Daniel B  t Christin. Born at Fayerne near Lake Neuch  tel, in 1745, he changed his name to Christie, returned to England from India at the age of 40, married Elizabeth Langham, who came into possession of the manor of Clydebourn, in Sussex, where their great-grandson, John Christie,



Vietnamese children at play at the Pestalozzi Children's Village founded by Heinrich Pestalozzi of Zurich at Seddlescombe, Sussex. Orphaned by the war, these children are learning English before starting their secondary school education.

He founded the opera festival, founded the opera festival. Spered the destruction of two world wars, Switzerland displays a rare continuity of art and culture. Its multilingual character proved favourable to the development of Swiss culture and has resulted in an abundance of Swiss activity. Book printers from Basle travelled down the Rhine, carrying loads of books to England in 1498. Carl Gustave Jung, pre-eminent among psychologists, the most brilliant of Freud's disciples, was born in Switzerland, at Kesswil, on Lake Constance, studying medicine at Basle. Jung visited Britain many times, particularly during the 1930s.

Since the time of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the Genevan political philosopher, educationist and essayist, and Heinrich Pestalozzi of Zurich, the creator of modern educational thinking, whose Pestalozzi village in Suisse is one of many later national children's villages, Swiss schools have enjoyed an excellent reputation with foreigners. Battersea Training College, London, was founded in 1840 on the principles of Pestalozzi and Philipp Emanuel von Fellenberg, the Swiss sociologist and rural economist who was born at Bern and who achieved an international reputation by establishing several educational institutions, including an orphanage.

It was the Swiss professor Simon Grynaeus from Basle who negotiated with continental reformers when Henry VIII wanted a divorce from Catherine of Aragon. Hans Holbein "the younger" who settled in Basle in 1520 after painting at Zurich and Lucerne, painted his most famous pictures at the English court; among them was his portrait of George Cytel, later Cytel, the first Swiss trader in Britain.

City that makes sense

continued from page 1

markets have had their best days. He pointed to the upsurge in the Eurocurrency market, in the latter half of last year which has continued into this year.

The other big outlet for Swiss skill and cash is the insurance market. The leading companies alone, including the Zurich Insurance Group, Switzerland General Insurance, Swiss National Insurance and Switzerland Life Assurance, cover every aspect of insurance from marine to motor business, fire cover and household policies to life assurance.

Swiss Reinsurance has a subsidiary in London which specializes in that market—little appreciated outside the insurance industry itself—reinsurance being the operation by which the insurance companies themselves lay off the risks they themselves have underwritten.

Swiss Reinsurance's London headquarters find London especially well structured for their type of operation. Again, it is a matter of the skill available, particularly at institutions like Lloyd's and among the network of British insurance brokers.

The outstanding fact about the various Swiss multinational companies operating in the United Kingdom is that they represent such a huge investment in Britain, adding to this country's industrial potential and giving substantial employment. The list is sizable and covers many industries from the footwear of the Bally group to the pharmaceuticals of Ciba-Geigy or Hoffmann-La Roche, and the power engineering products of Brown Boveri.

Ciba-Geigy, for instance, have followed a pattern of expansion in the United Kingdom. Iford, the film manufacturing company, is a large operation in Essex, and there is substantial chemicals production.

Belgard EV was an entirely new type of scale control additive for sea water desalination plants developed in collaboration with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

The company now plans a £5m agro-chemicals plant near its existing Grimsby premises.

Brown Boveri has been established in Britain for 70 years. United Kingdom turnover is about £11m compared with this huge power engineering group's world turnover of some £1,250m. It was only when they took over almost a half share in the British industrial instrument maker, Kent, that they gained production facilities in Britain.

George Kent represents a chance to exploit the growth of instrument and control technology and process automation. It has more than two dozen manufacturing and selling companies in the United Kingdom and abroad.

As Brown Boveri Kent it will greatly strengthen the company's ability to tender for complete power installations, the Swiss management feels. As British Brown Boveri before this, the Swiss group had been involved over the years in some of the most advanced United Kingdom engineering projects.

Since the injection of Swiss management and cash in late 1974, George Kent has been put back in the black. Brown Boveri could well finish increasing its stake. Whatever happens, the Swiss group's presence in the United Kingdom is obviously destined to grow.

The basic Swiss drive for expansion without fanfare has emerged in other ways. Nestl  , the confectionery and foods giant with headquarters in Switzerland, gets well over 95 per cent of its turnover from abroad, with a notably decentralized management structure that tends to veil the Swiss connection.

It is solidly established in the United Kingdom with many production units up and down Britain and operations like Crosse and Blackwell and Finsbury within its well and Finsbury within its United Kingdom network.

This outward push away from the fairly small Swiss market can be particularly seen in the beginnings of Aerrow, now the largest British-owned manufacturer of equipment used in the construction industry. Mr William A. de Vigier, its Swiss-born chairman, left Switzerland at the age of 24, a trained engineer, determined to make his way abroad.

In 1936 the company had three employees and a few thousand square feet of rented factory. Now it has 10,000 employees and some 10 million sq ft of factory space with subsidiary companies in more than a dozen countries.

The author is Commercial Editor, The Times.

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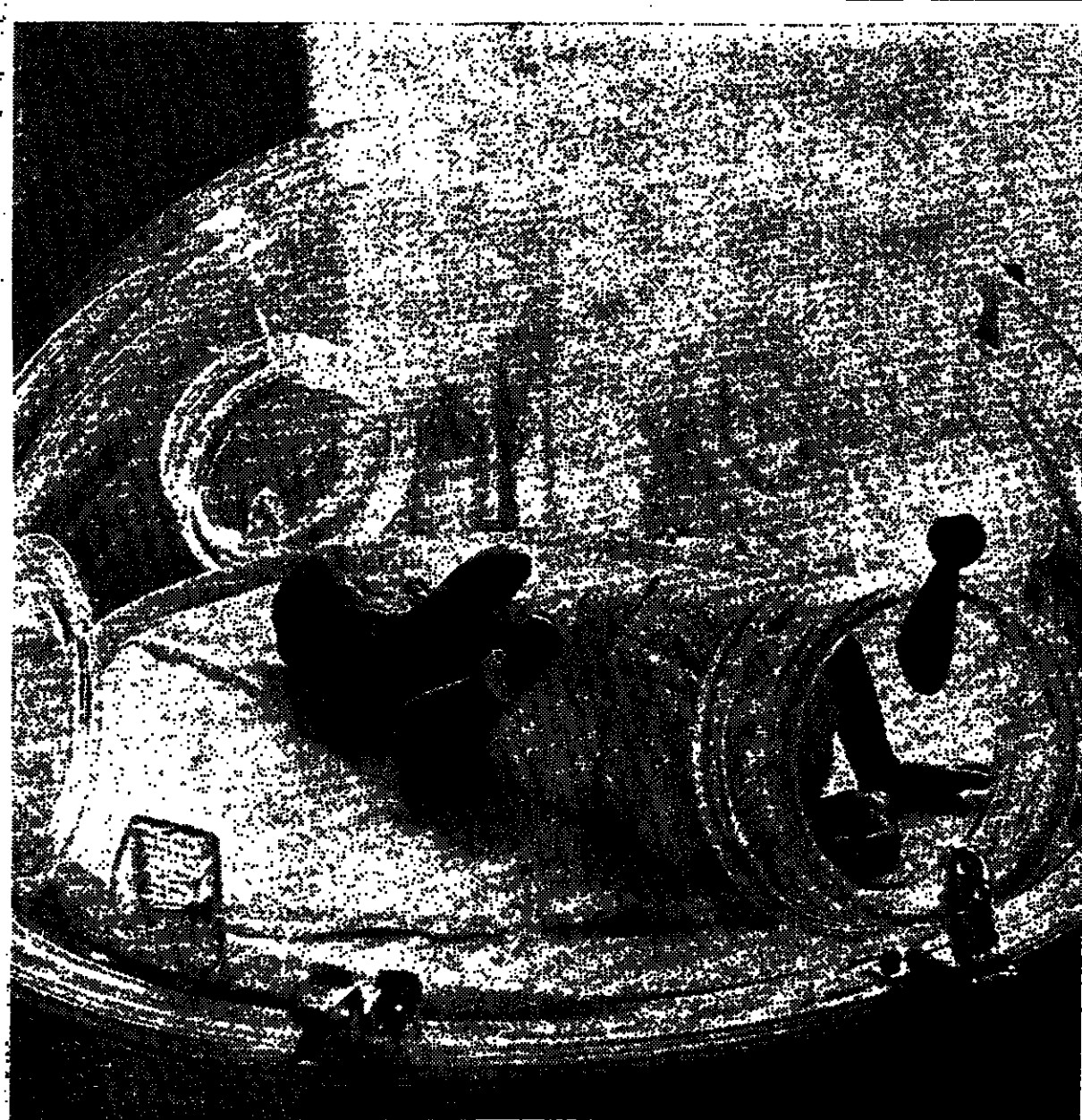
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his month, the chairmen twenty nationalized industries are to meet to compare their problems and state their relations with Government. The very fact they have been induced to an unofficial pressure of this sort is, in itself, that all is not well. The next year, an unprecedented number of these chairmen is up for renewal. The Government will in many cases decide whether or not to the contracts of existing chairmen. If not, it will have to find suitable successors. Some chairmen are known to be only going to give way. Meaningful British Leyland and the National Oil Corporation are not. The Government is not more and more difficult to get the right and qualifications to sit on the boards and as executives of state-owned enterprises.

First presenting symptom of morale at the top of the nationalized industry is widespread grievance about salary. Here it is clear that the indirect operations of salary policy over the years have worked this group of chairmen. They have had no significant increase for six years. Lord Top Salaries Review recommended at the end that their salaries should be substantially increased. The Government, in the board's view, have been put up to a year, for example; and the tier of chairmen to the figures compare

with a present range of between £23,000 and £28,000.

The Government, however, suspended these salary increases, though MPs and other senior public servants were granted rises. Certainly the position is now being reached where the salaries that can be offered by state industry are not just lower, but are so much lower than the comparable figures for the private sector that they must present a substantial deterrent to a man of ability, contemplating a switch. The field of possible candidates, as a result, is increasingly limited to those nearing, or at the end of their private sector careers, with their pension and personal financial positions secured; or those who set store by the more indirect forms of public recognition. Furthermore senior executives within public corporations are reluctant to take "promotion" to the board, because of the salary cut involved.

Pay is, however, seldom the root cause of low morale. The more serious problem is that of lack of satisfaction from the job. Generation after generation of nationalized industry chairmen have found that they have not, in practice, been able to get on with their job within clearly established guidelines. They find themselves tracked for not meeting their financial targets, when direct Government interference is often the main reason why they have been unable to do so. In the critical areas of commercial policy, like pricing, output, employment levels and investment, they discover that in the eyes of their employers and

the general public their authority is continually undermined and their judgment questioned.

A few concrete examples illustrate the point. The mine workers know that their final wage negotiations are not with the NCB chairman, but with the Government. The British Steel Corporation knows that its detailed future investment decisions and manning levels are finally arbitrated in Whitehall. The British Aircraft Corporation knows that it is not in the power of British Airways to say that it will not operate Concorde at a loss. Meanwhile, the nationalized sector is used by all governments as a handy instrument of overall economic employment and even social policy, largely in disregard of the effect that such directives may have on the finances of the public corporations themselves. The cumulative effect on the morale of those trying to work with a commercial framework, is disastrous.

It would be naive to suppose otherwise than that the links between Government and the nationalized industries will be close. They command such a high proportion of the basic industry and infrastructure of the country that it could not be otherwise. It is, however, essential to ensure that these industries, which run these industries should have returned to them the authority required to run the organizations for which they hold the nominal responsibility. Until we start to move again in that direction, men and women of calibre will have little or no incentive to accept the jobs.

Mr. Arthur Scargill's household in Yorkshire, there are divided about some of the national over- in that began yesterday, plainly the wrong action wrong moment that the on the hardly as remark- dered. But although the Union of Minework- le for local and political s within, it usually s to make a fair show of y one industrial action a decided on. This time not, which is one more on that the successes of t few years have taken e edge off militancy. nificant, too, that the members of the union e showing more aware- some of their leaders- danger of frittering away mpetitive position as a f power.

With the colliery that the Coal Board want to 1978, is not large nor its disappearance cause hardship. Its workers e able to move to two mines only five miles. Even the union's own s accent that it could

only be kept open by unwar- ably heavy expenditure on open- ing up sparse new seams, them- selves likely to be exhausted within a few years. The case might have been accepted if the coal board had not backed it up with a suggestion that new regu- lations for the control of dust were an obstacle to the extension of the pit. The union feared that their argument might be used as a precedent when the future of other collieries is in question.

The board quickly agreed not to press the question of dust, but the topic of closure is sensitive one, and voices on the left of the union were able to claim that a 'general' principle was involved. Longwith is at least making a profit—as many as half the pits in Britain cannot even make that—boost—and the industry's plans for heavy invest- ment in new fields like Selby will in time greatly increase the dis- parity between the most eco- nomical mines and the least. It is no coincidence that the go-slow has been most effective in areas like South Wales, where a tradi- tion of militancy is reinforced by the knowledge that local geology does not lend itself to modern methods of winning coal.

The Government have been careful to allay fears that any extensive closures are likely for the time being, but the long-term prospect is less reassuring. The particular perversity of the go-slow at this moment is that it might have been timed to under- mine the future market for coal. On Friday Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is holding talks with unions and managers in the industries concerned with power supply to discuss how future demand ought to be met. The NCB and NUM will try to convince the Central Electricity Generating Board that coal will remain sufficiently cheap and reliable to supply—justify an even greater reliance upon it. Whatever the favourable predi- cations Mr Benn may have, and however much of a political force the miners may be, this will not be made easier against the background of an overtime ban, even a half-hearted one. There is still time for Mr Gormley to recall the executive and try to get last week's narrow vote in favour of a ban reversed, and it is becoming increasingly clear not only that this would be in the best interests of the miners, but also that most of them know it.

and frequent increases in price of domestic gas and electricity have made it more than ever for poor to pay their bills. This Long arrears incur discommodation, or the fear of it, the elderly to a condition of hypothermia, which may or hasten death. The Minister last year asked the members of State with an interest in the matter (there but to be no fewer than them) to get together and find ways of tempering the working party concerned adjusting the structure of tariffs, special concessions for certain classes of consumer, free allowances of domestic electricity, even a full free fuel allowance with a drawback. Writing in to their report Mr. Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, lists all these possibilities. In them, he says, "offers a story way of helping poor workers with their fuel bills". It all run into one or other of the following objections: they are the gas and electricity industries in cross-subsidization between classes of consumer without commercial warrant—something which those boards are neither authorized by statute nor equipped to do; the members of the categories to be favoured must be readily identifiable, a requirement which entails the inclusion of a large number of persons not in need of assistance; the cost of this less-than-discriminating help would have to be met either by other consumers (some of whom may be in worse case than some of the beneficiaries) or by taxpayers at large—just when it is the policy of the Government to reduce such general subsidies.

The right way to relieve hardship in a matter of this kind is not to impose public welfare responsibilities on the supplying industries but to assign the social and welfare services to the new situation. The supplying industries have a role to play in this, but it does not go beyond a duty to watch for and report instances in which the exercise of their power to disconnect supplies may endanger health, and to adapt arrangements for the payment of bills as well as possible to the circumstances of individual consumers.

Yesterday Mr. Benn asked the boards to suspend until the summer disconnections of households of which all the members are pensioners, and last week new arrangements were agreed between the fuel industries and the Supplementary Benefits Commission intended to forestall disconnections from which serious hardship might ensue. The commission will pay direct to the supplier a weekly sum on behalf of the consumer sufficient to cover current consumption and begin the settlement of arrears, and the sum will be deducted from the amount paid out in benefit. That infringes the general principle that benefits are paid in money, not in kind, and that how the money is spent is a matter for the recipient. But an exception to that principle may have to be made—and it may have to be extended to other kinds of common indebtedness such as over council rents—if there are to be reasonable defences against deprivation without an unreasonable level of bad debts to public authorities.

Mr Brian McCuskey, Professor Richard Rose out in his article on the direct elections to the new Parliament (February 11) stated will be allowed to use an electoral system for these.

British citizens resident in Community countries this can be a problem. The right to participate in British elections, whether as a voter or candidate, is based on residence and as happened in the EEC referendum, citizens living in any of the eight Community countries do not have the right to vote, by post or otherwise. A campaign to have this right accorded for the EEC referendum was unsuccessful, although there were indications that the Government (and in particular Mr David Short, who masterminded the referendum Bill) felt that the issue was justified, but that the available resources did not permit the necessary arrangements to be made. I still two years away, and the Green or White Paper which will have to be issued shortly the Government must include recom-

memorandum. Parliament British citizens living in the other Community member states will have the right to vote, and indeed to stand as candidates, in these elections. Otherwise we shall have as Community that are who as Community officials represent Britain in places like Brussels and Luxembourg will have no say in electing the new Community institution that we can claim to be truly democratic.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN McCUSKEY,
Cris Mameranus 59,
Mamer,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
February 12.

Overseas student fees

From Mr David Robey

Sir, Just about one third of the students of this postgraduate college pay the supplementary charge for students from overseas. About half of these have their fees paid directly by grant-giving bodies, and half pay them to us themselves. Even with fees at their present level,

for life college.

It is therefore a certainty that if the students' fees are raised even to the lowest of the levels now proposed, overseas applications to the college will suffer. This might or might not be to the disadvantage of foreign students thus prevented from coming here; but it will undoubtedly be to the disadvantage of the university.

Admission to the college and the university is a competitive process based on criteria of academic merit; we take postgraduate students from overseas not because they are foreign but because they are good. The inevitable consequence of the proposed increases will be that the average quality of postgraduate students in the university will decline. This in turn would affect the general standard of research in Oxford—the connexion between the quality of students' and the quality of teachers' research being, I imagine, self-evident.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROBEY,
Wolfson College,
Oxford.
February 13.

From Mr David Robey
Sir, Just about one third of the students of this postgraduate college pay the supplementary charge for students from overseas. About half of these have their fees paid directly by grant-writing bodies, and half pay them to us themselves. I am sure that, at their present level, the quality of students' and the quality of teachers' research being I imagine, self-evident.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROBEY,
Wolfson College,
Oxford.
February 13.

From Mr Ronald M. Bell, QC, Conservative MP for Bournemouth.

Sir, What was achieved by your article on the use of press cards by British soldiers or agents in Ireland? Was not this, and your correspondent's justification of it—that journalists are people who have to talk to numerous groups of people and that during the course of their work, and whose safety depends on their "professional integrity"—an attempt to claim a status of impartial, uncommitted extra-politically for journalists and hence for the press?

Some people, myself included, feel outraged by these communications and meetings with known criminals or terrorists that have become common on the part of the people of the press. Professional integrity, I am afraid, means "you give me a story, and I'll behave like a neutral".

I never expected to quote Mr Conor Cruise O'Brien, with approval, but in the same issue of *The Times* (February 16) as saying, with a better sense of realism than *The Times* has shown: "It is quite certain that terrorists do not believe in a free press, or the media in their attempt to destroy the type of state which alone makes those freedoms possible"; and he urged a solid refusal to do any deal with the conspirators, to continue to have any contact with them at all other than that necessary for their apprehension and suppression. Good for him!

Yours faithfully,
RONALD M. BELL,
House of Commons,
February 16.

From Mr. Miles Hudson.
Sir, In all the controversy about the Anglo-American mercantiles there is one highly important matter reaching to the root of political debate which seems to have escaped notice. The mercantile is embarrassed because of its own meagre belief in the Government as in some way agents for Britain. It is this embarrassment which is the fundamental cause of the intemperate language used by Ministers. There is an almost desperate compulsion to revile the mercantiles, to revile those who recruited them, and to do so with the maximum publicity. As an expolitical secretary at the Foreign Office, under a government with a fundamentally different philosophy to that of the mercantile Government, I can see the situation.

The reason for this identification of the activities of British citizens with the British Government is strongly connected with the relationship between the state and the individual. The more the state believes it should direct the activities of its citizens in all fields, the more other people believe it has responsibility for them and the greater the sense of guilt the state will have when its citizens behave in a way it does not like, although they are not its subjects. It is the same in friends. If action is taken, the less freedom there remains for the individual.

The Berlin Wall is an extreme example of the same phenomenon. We would be the better for it.

We would be the better for it.

Yours faithfully,
MILES HUDSON,
The Priors Farm,
Manningtree,
Ness, Buxingham,
January 14,
February 14.

From Sir Robert Lusty
Sir, Mrs Mary Whitehouse, writing (February 14) as the General Secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, whose actual membership seems always considerably in excess of the numbers she claims to speak for, must not be allowed to get away with her innuendoes.

I have not, myself, heard Sir Hugh Greene use the phrase "pushing the envelope of acceptability". Mrs Whitehouse refers presumably to the period when Sir Hugh Greene was Director-General of the BBC. I was then a member of the regularly united board of governors which supported Sir Hugh in his avowed policy of "opening the windows of Broadcasting House to my recollection of the world as it is" and were extending the frontiers of human compassion and understanding.

Is the bottle half empty or half full?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LUSTY,
The Old Silk Mill,
Blackley,
Moreland-in-Marsh,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire.
FEBRUARY 15.

From Mr W. J. Strachan
Sir, May I add my voice to that of
your correspondents who view
with dismay the threatened dispersal
of the Edward James Foundation of
Surrealist works to which *The Times*
photograph and caption (February
9) drew public attention? Obviously
the collection would seem to be
of great importance as the Peggy
Guggenheim collection in Venice.
Dr F. V. Brady mentions the
pervasive and invigorating influence
of the surrealist painters on film,
drama and humour (Letters, February
14). I would emphasize its
influence in the field of French
book illustration (the *livres d'artiste*)
to which so many famous surrealists
have contributed—Dali,
Delvaux, Arp, Miró, Masson, Tanguy,
Léonor Fini, Ernst to quote only a
few examples.
The disappearance of the Edward
James collection would deprive a
growing public interested in such
books—many to be seen in the
V & A Library—of access and relating
these excellent works by the same artists.
The ideal of a London showing seems
impossible.
Yours faithfully,
W. J. STRACHAN,
10 Pleasant Road,
Hampstead, London, N.W.4.
Barnard Castle,
Durhamshire.
February 14.

From Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, CB, FRS

Sir, I would like to resist the gentle impeachment of inconsistency contained in your leading article today (February 13), and venture a mild criticism of that leading article itself.

I take back nothing of what I said in 1970. The Bill whose passage through Parliament was resisted was vulnerable to all the criticisms you enumerate and others besides, and made no serious attempt to face the real difficulties presented in any Bill of Rights legislation. Given that the best we can think of is a declaration of rights of the conventional kind, our adherence to the European Convention is probably worth more than any internal legislation of the type then envisaged.

What your leader writer fails, however, to see is the inherently dangerous character of the tradition of the sovereignty of Parliament. The sovereignty of Parliament has become the sovereignty of the House of Commons, elected, as you have observed on other occasions, by a method ensuring at times its dominance by a very small minority of the electorate. The sovereignty of the House of Commons has become the sovereignty of the executive that is a government controlling both the party whips and the immensely powerful Civil Service. The sovereignty of the government, in Labour hands, has become the sovereignty of the unelected and unreadable manifesto, sanctified by the traditional doctrine of mandate, and tendered largely unbestorable by the use of the prerogative of dissolution.

What is urgently needed is some limitation on this continually elected dictatorship. It is here that I have hands with the conventional Bill of Rights enthusiasts, of whom, with

respect to your leader writer, I am not one.

Such limitations, contained in constitutions of the "written" type (the epithet is misleading as Lord Birkenhead long ago observed) must of course be policed by the judiciary. To describe, as your leader writer does, such a function as "legislation" is to commit a solecism which any American schoolchild would condemn. The referee at a football match is not a legislator. His function is to interpret, apply, and enforce rules made elsewhere.

Yours, etc,
HAILSHAM,
House of Lords,
February 13.

From Mr Geoffrey Garrett

Sir, The emphasis in your article (February 13) on the "written" elements which will have to be solved if we are to improve the protection of human rights in the United Kingdom is fully justified. This includes all the other groups and individuals—presently studying and analyzing those problems and their possible solution.

It is, however, a matter of regret that it seems to me that the fallacy of many other commentators that a Bill of Rights for the United Kingdom would be a novelty. We have had Bills of Rights of one kind or another since the thirteenth century: the last one still in force, was enacted in 1689. Almost all other laws as old as that have since been brought up to date. The real question for debate is how far we can best modernize that protective legislation of nearly three centuries ago.

GEOFFREY GARRETT, Chairmanship of the Board of Governors,
The British Institute of Human Rights,
51 Minories, EC3.

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman
Sir, The terms of reference of the Royal Commission on the Legal Profession, announced by the Prime Minister on February 12, are so worded as to leave completely open to the inquiry virtually the whole field of legal services, whether publicly or privately financed.

This could delay for years reforms in legal services that are needed. Two years ago, the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal aid reported that "there are many people whose legal rights are at present going wholly unprotected". Since then, the Lord Chancellor's Office, the whole field of legal services, including the legal aid scheme, under close scrutiny for the first time for over 25 years, and the moment has now come when the reforms in legal services to be proposed, discussed and implemented. These should: (1) Reallocate resources within the legal aid scheme, so as to reduce the waiting time for legal aid, at the same time bringing new

Supplement the private profession by more use of solicitors both in accident and law centres and attached to other agencies such as citizens' advice bureaux; and (3) Establish a network of development officers, responsible to the Lord Chancellor, who would coordinate legal services, so as to make better use of existing resources. If these urgent reforms have to await the conclusions of a Royal Commission, they will be pushed by perhaps as much as a decade.

Furthermore, may I suggest that with terms of reference so broad as the Royal Commission should be set up a speeded timetable so that relatively minor reforms can be introduced swiftly? I would put conveyancing and the remuneration of lawyers among the topics that should be disposed of within a year.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BINDMAN, Chairman,
The Legal Action Group,
28, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4,
February 13.

From Mr Ian Kennedy and Dr R. G. Edwards

Sir, On February 6 Parliament gave a second reading to the Congenital Disabilities (Civil Liability) Bill. The strictures of Lord Pearson (letter, January 28) went unheeded. We think it would be most unfortunate if the Bill were to become law now a matter of urgency that the numerous weaknesses of the bill be exposed to public scrutiny. We would welcome the opportunity to point out some of these weaknesses.

We take the view that the Bill has many of the following features. It proceeds on doubtful scientific premises concerning the causation of fetal damage. It perpetuates a demonstrably fallible principle of liability (negligence), at a time when the Pearson Committee is recommending to recommend that compensation for personal injury be dealt with on another and, it is to be hoped, fairer principle. It applies a double standard of liability as regards the possible liability of a father and a child. It states that a father can be liable in all circumstances whereas a mother, with the exception of damage arising from her negligence driving, is exempt from liability. Was it not a little surprising to learn that the mother's insurance company would in fact pay the bill? Even more strangely, any defences which would have been available to a wrongdoer in the case of a child, would not, in her contributory negligence, be equally available against the child in any action brought by the child.

The Bill also contains a particularly pernicious provision that a child born with a congenital disability is entitled to compensation for loss of expectation of life may be recovered. Here is a Pandora's box of problems. Attempts to keep a new-born alive could be encouraged by the attempt to hasten a fetus's death. Further there is something unsatisfactory logically and scientifically about a Bill which defines an action to a child born at full term as occurring 26 hours after birth.

Yours faithfully,
IAN KENNEDY,
King's College London,
R. G. EDWARDS,
Physiological Laboratory,
University of Cambridge,
February 13.

From the Editor of *The Catholic Herald*.

Sir, I read Mr Peter Hebblewhite's account (February 14) of the recent Islamic-Christian Dialogue in Tripoli with special interest as I also happened to be present. The author's well known skills produced an excellent description of details and local colour, but seemed curiously at pains to obscure the main impression left by the conference.

The Muslims, taking their cue from the Libyan head of state, appeared at least to me—anxious to subordinate ecumenism to controversial politics; and one of the final, apparently agreed, resolutions was a condemnation of Zionism "in so far as it is racism". It was only later, after much embarrassment, that the Jewish and Jewish-Christian groups were invited to make their own worst implications of this by the resolution in question.

While it may thus be true to say that the Vatican delegates did not "walk headlong" into any trap, they certainly seemed to stumble backwards into one, to scramble out afterwards only with great difficulty and after much damage

shadowed any religious détente, was left unexplained by Mr Hebblewhite, though reported briefly in *The Times* a week earlier.

Yours faithfully,
GERARD NOEL, Editor,
The Catholic Herald,
63 Charterhouse Street, EC1.
February 14.

Regular deliveries

From Mr A. J. Hill
Sir, Mr George Hutchinson writes (February 14) " . . . that familiar (and traditionally well-loved) figure, the milkman . . . "

From time to time over the years, I have had to do without my post, electricity, gas, water, telephone, even my copy of *The Times*, etc., etc.; never, to the best of my recollection, has the milkman let me down. I agree with Mr Hutchinson so . . . "the milkman is unique".

Sincerely,
A. J. HILL,
12 Honeybrook Close,
Wolverley,
Worcestershire.
February 15.

From Mr J. J. Leeming

Sir, Ever since becoming a country surveyor 30 years ago and so having to do with public inquiries I have thought them to be highly undemocratic. They are heavily loaded on the side of objective, and those in favour of the scheme have no say.

Not long ago, a village near here held an ecumenical service of thanksgiving in the parish church when their by-pass was opened. Another held public rejoicings in the village street when M5 was opened. In yet another the people gathered to block the Bristol-Exeter road, A38, in protest at delays in completing M5, delays partly due to a public inquiry. Have these people no right to a say?

We must also remember those who will be killed if these roads are built. The opening of five miles of motorway saves at least one life per year. Is not this in their favour? But we do not hear of it.

Yours sincerely,
J. J. LEEMING,
Weythill,
Grange Road,
Bristol 14,
Devon.
February 14.

From Mr. J. K. Owens

Sir, Many voluntary organisations will be anxious to see new arrangements agreed between the Supplementary Benefits Commission and the fuel industries for helping supplementary benefit recipients who cannot pay their fuel bills (*The Times*, February 10). I have been assured that the existing liaison arrangements were inadequate to avoid needless disconnection of fuel supplies, particularly following a number of sharp fuel price increases, and have made representations to the appropriate authorities.

Although we are anxious to see how these new arrangements work in practice, there are four factors which are crucial to any solution of the fuel debts problem:

- 1 The basic rates of supplementary benefit (which contain a normal heating allowance) should be increased at least by the end of May; not only because of inflation but also because of the steep rise in fuel prices.
- 2 The extra heating allowances should be increased for the same reasons and particular provision should be made for consumers trapped into using all electric appliances.
- 3 The new arrangements, which allow greater flexibility for supplementary benefit recipients to pay off arrears, depend on the skills of local ABC and fuel industry officials who are sympathetic to the real problems some families have in meeting high fuel bills.
- 4 The arrangements will not help those who are not eligible for supplementary benefit, such as the low wage-earner, whose financial difficulties are quite different. For this reason, the fuel industries should be persuaded to adopt supply practices which are better suited to the weekly budgeting needs of low income consumers generally and encourage more effective use of existing fuel allowances.

If these points are kept in mind, then the hardship caused by accumulative debt and disconnection, for both consumers and the already strained social services, can be better alleviated.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. OWENS, Director,
The National Council of Social Service,
26 Bedford Square, WC1
February 10.

From Mr. Anthony Prince

Sir, It is a regular habit of mine to peruse the *Penguin* Columns in an endeavour to monitor the communications between the various secret agents when on Saturday, to my alarm, I found that an apparent war was about to be declared under the operational codename of *Strategic Victory*. No less than 67 agents were engaged in communicating to each other through *The Times*—a considerably greater number than on last year's uprising.

It is of no surprise to me that the 1976 revolution failed, for of the six secret messages to bears, surely several of them were confused as to which message to read? To emphasize this point I give you the following table:

Top Agents	1976	1975
Prob., Piglet, Wol,		
Rabbit & Relations	11	13
Bears ..	11	6
Rabbits ..	9	4
Other Mammals ..	7	6
Birds ..	6	7
Human Features ..	6	1
Food ..	5	9
Cats ..	5	4
Mice ..	4	6
Pigs ..	4	3
Fish ..	4	3
(undetermined)	40	42
(not already included)	34	10

From Mr A. J. Hill
Sir, Mr George Hutchinson writes
(February 14) . . . that familiar
(and traditionally well-loved) figure,
the "milkman" . . .

From time to time over the years,
I have had to do without my post,
electricity, gas, water, telephone,
even my copy of *The Times*, etc.
etc; never, to the best of my recol-
lection, has the milkman let me
down. I agree with Mr Hutchinson
"the milkman is unique".

Sincerely,
A. J. HILL,
12 Honeybrook Close,
Wolverley,
Worcestershire.
February 15

the number of foreign agents
operating from these shores, viz.
13 were French
5 were German
5 were Ancient Romans
5 were Italian
with a scattering of Celts and
cousins of the above. (Halves
liberally allowed for those who were
bilingual.)

Cuddles takes top prize for having
six references, and it is interesting
to note that the cats are keeping
the mice down this year.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY PRINCE,
United Oxford & Cambridge
University Club,
71 Pall Mall, SW1.

For Saving
Investing and
House-Purchase

HALIFAX
BUILDING SOCIETY

For Saving
Investing and
House-Purchase

HALIFAX
BUILDING SOCIETY

an step to boost oil output may lead to a further fall in revenue

By Melvyn Westlake

Iran has resisted altering the price of its heavy crudes since last October, mainly because it has always taken a hawkish stance within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on prices.

At this stage Opec cannot step into the dispute and Iran cannot expect to get much help from its neighbours if its relations with the oil companies deteriorate even further. Opec members are free to adjust their prices within a broad framework established by the organization.

But Opec is still worried about the effect this type of dispute could have on its unity. A meeting to discuss the problem has been suggested and yesterday leading members of the organization were trying to persuade the Algerians to drop their objections.

Algeria has complained about price cutting and the Iraqis and Saudis have said it will not attend any new meeting of the organization until Iraq increases the price of some crudes by 10 cents a barrel.

Not all the members of the consortium are access to other sources of heavy crude. British Petroleum, Gulf and Shell buy from Kuwait, where heavy oil is 10 cents a barrel cheaper than in Iran, and Exxon, Mobil and Standard Oil of California have access to Saudi Arabian crude, which is seven cents a barrel cheaper.

Oiltime Fruit in talks with banks on loan problems

By Melvyn Westlake

Oiltime Fruit, which opened in London yesterday, is believed to have a possible moratorium on payments of principal on its bank loans. The company's negotiating team was led by Mr. H. Struve Hessel, the new chief executive, who has just taken over control from MFC's co-founders, Captain M. Brener and Mr. Jaacov Meridor.

He was accompanied by Mr. Albert Atwell, his top managerial assistant. Mr. Michael Farrell, a partner of Price Waterhouse, and representatives of Slaen, which operates MFC's refrigerated cargo vessels on long-term time charters.

At least two dozen banks are thought to be involved in the talks with MFC, which have been taking place in New York as well as London.

Commission allows rises in beer and cement

By Melvyn Westlake

Beer and cement prices have risen an average of 6.6 per cent despite applications from four companies being shaved by the Price Commission.

But during January the Price Commission rejected 22 price increases, including an ICI application for 24.8 per cent on methanamines. In another 18 cases the companies withdrew their applications and in 66 other instances the increases planned were reduced.

Price reductions worth £1.26m were agreed by 11 distributors and one manufacturer after Commission intervention over profit margins.

The cement makers last raised their prices in October by 9.1 per cent. On the new

round, the Commission reduced by 1.1 per cent the applications by Ribblesdale Cement, Kerton Portland Cement and Tunnel Cement. A 10-ton delivery of bagged cement in central London now costs just under £18.

Harp, now eighth largest of Britain's beer producers, owned jointly by Guinness, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Courage and Greene King, had a 3.92 per cent rise application marginally modified by the Price Commission. Some bar prices could go up 1p a pint.

Watney Mann's price rises will be selective on draught beers, and are likely to vary at different outlets and in different parts of the country.

Retail sales index up for third month running

By Melvyn Westlake

Tentative signs that an upturn in consumer spending may at last be occurring, are provided in the retail sales figures, published yesterday by the Department of Industry.

Although the estimates of business activity in Britain's high streets during January are still provisional, the indication of a larger trading volume is consistent with other evidence that the recession in the economy may now have passed its worst.

The official index of the retail sales, by volume, adjusted for seasonal influences, rose 1.9 per cent in January to 109 (1971=100). This represented the third consecutive monthly increase in the index.

Hitherto, a combination of falling general living standards and high personal saving have severely depressed the level of consumer spending.

However, it is not yet clear how much the upturn in December and January reflects the easing of some credit restrictions by the Chancellor in mid-December, and the comparatively buoyant new year "sales".

Helped by these factors, in December and January, volume of trade in the last three months is shown to be about 13 per cent above the level of the August-October period, but still 4 per cent below the average level reached in the fourth quarter of 1974 and the first quarter of 1975.

It will not be clear for another couple of months at least whether there is a real underlying upswing in the level of retail sales, which account for about half of all consumer spending. As there would not seem to have been any significant rise in net disposable income, any upturn in spending would seem to indicate a drop in the historically high level of savings during the past months.

As a percentage of personal disposable income, savings amounted to over 14 per cent in the early months of last year and remained above 13 per cent throughout the summer and early autumn. This compares with around 11 per cent in 1973.

As consumer spending is a major component of demand within the economy, a rise in such expenditure has a significant influence on total economic activity.

However, most forecasters have predicted only a marginal increase in consumer spending in the early months of this year and total expenditure for 1976 as a whole is expected to be rather lower than for 1975.

The rise in savings has just been keeping up with the increase in prices in recent months, but it has seemed likely that earnings would fall behind the cost of living. Thus consumer spending would be held back.

There have been several indications that the economy is beginning to make the long climb out of recession. Industrial output has stopped falling, and companies are reporting a rise in the volume and value of new orders.

BSC's loss estimate cut by £60m

By Peter Hill

Sir Monty Finniston, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, yesterday said that the corporation's loss this year would be considerably less than the £350m feared originally.

A loss of about £290m for the present financial year, which ends in six weeks, is in prospect.

Speaking after the starting of the £27m blast furnace at Llanwern—delayed in its commissioning for more than a year because of a dispute over pay levels for the blast furnace men—Sir Monty indicated that the corporation's borrowing limit of £2,000m was not likely to be exceeded. Borrowing at present is about £800m below the limit.

The BSC chairman also affirmed that it was the intention of the state steel under-

taking to aim for a profit in the next financial year.

Prospects for achieving this, however, are not rated very high. Much depends on effective implementation of agreements to reduce manning at plants throughout the country and on other associated measures to reduce costs, as the industry moves out of its worst recession.

But there are signs of some improvement, according to the corporation's executive. Losses last month amounted to £26m and the weekly loss figure has been cut from £8m to £5m.

Mr. Bob Scholey, the corporation's chief executive, says this improvement reflects a big reduction in the number of labour disputes. Noting that production last month was the highest since April last year, he said: "There are signs of a

turn round in attitude as well as trade."

Mr. Scholey and Sir Monty stressed that the build up of the counter cyclical stockpile of steel—being funded by the Government to the tune of £70m in the form of decreased Public Dividend Capital and loans—was on target and by the end of March stocks on the ground should have been built up to about 850,000 tonnes.

"We would hope to see a very radical reduction in imports of steel into this country as a result of the counter cyclical stockpile and our attempts to get more out of our own works than ever before," Sir Monty said.

Questioned about the BSC's ability to fund further investment, Sir Monty replied: "I do not believe anyone—government or manpower—can stop

BSC investing in the future, because if it does that is a criminal act."

Financial difficulties in the short term should not be allowed to cloud longer term plans, he added.

The blastfurnace opened yesterday—the first new one in the United Kingdom for 14 years—forms part of a £107m development at Llanwern and is the forerunner of a new generation of blast furnaces to be built in the country. It will have a capacity of producing 5,000 tonnes of iron a day.

The "blowing in" ceremony was carried out by Mr. Hector Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Blast Furnacemen. He said he hoped that the furnace would consume in its heat "all the parochial views, misunderstandings and animosities" on all sides of the steel industry.

Egypt gives companies way off Arab blacklist

By Malcolm Brown

Egypt has decided to allow businessmen to buy themselves off the Arab blacklist in respect of business done in Egypt.

Companies blacklisted by the Arab Boycott of Israel Office are being told it will help their case for removal from the proscribed list if they match their investments in Israel with investments in an Arab country.

Senior officials of the Egyptian Government made their position on the boycott clear in talks at the second Quadrilateral Businessmen's Conference on Economic Interdependence in Iran on November 12 and 13 last year. Iran is not a member of the Arab League and takes no part in the boycott.

The conference was attended by leading businessmen from America, Europe and Japan. Arab League states represented were Egypt, Algeria and Kuwait.

Senior officials said that Egypt regarded the Arab boycott as a political matter which could never be fully disposed of until the Arab-Israeli conflict was resolved.

But it was stressed that it would help companies to get the boycott lifted if they made proposals for investments in Arab countries.

It is believed that up to four Arab League countries other than Egypt are now prepared in principle to consider removal from the blacklist on this basis.

Companies are blacklisted if they carry out any action in Israel which might harm its economy, develop its industry, or help to improve its military effort.

Prohibitions which can lead to blacklisting are: branch offices in Israel; Israeli firms to use patents, trade marks or copyright; technical help to Israeli firms; and investments in Israeli companies. Each country in the Arab League compiles its own blacklist based on the recommendations of the Boycott Office.

Blacklisting is designed to deny the listed company access to Arab markets. The full extent of the blacklist is not known; but there are indications that 1,000 British firms may have been listed. British Leyland is one which is trying to get off the blacklist.

New Maritime Institute set up

Maritime science elements of the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex, are to be hived off into a new National Maritime Institute, Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday.

First director will be Mr. John Nichols, an Under-Secretary in the Department of Industry, who is at present head of the Research and Development Contractors division. The institute will take over the work of the maritime science and ship divisions of the laboratory.

Record loan of \$600m for Comecon

By Our Financial Staff

Comecon, the East European economic organization, is seeking a \$600m loan (about £300m) from the Eurocurrency markets through its borrowing vehicle, the International Investment Bank. This will be the largest loan ever raised by Comecon.

According to the International Investment Bank, the weekly newsletter, the loan is being arranged by Dresdner Bank and will be for a little under five years. It will carry a margin over Eurodollar inter-bank rates of 14 to 15 per cent.

The International Investment Bank is an active borrower in the Eurocurrency market, raising one loan for \$350m and one for \$70m—in both cases for five years.

Total Eurodollar borrowing by Comecon countries has been much bigger, however, reaching almost \$2,500m last year, plus \$1,400m in international bond issues.

It is estimated that Comecon's overall Eurocurrency indebtedness may be nearly \$15,000m.

With borrowings growing rapidly to meet the mounting trade deficit—likely to have been nearly trebled at around \$12,000m in 1975—it has been suggested in banking circles that Comecon borrowers would have to face the prospect of higher interest rate margins.

The projected terms offer some tentative confirmation for this view.

Tate & Lyle plant closure opposed

The 2,000 workers employed at the Tate & Lyle sugar refinery in Liverpool are to oppose the threatened closure of the plant as a result of the cutback in cane production.

A meeting of Liverpool workers yesterday heard that both management and the action committee were opposed to the closing of the plant by the autumn. The action committee has already submitted alternative proposals to Mr. Peart, Minister of Agriculture, and will now lobby local MPs.

Bank union challenges staff bodies

By Christopher Thomas

Staff associations in all banks and financial houses are to be challenged by a TUC-affiliated union over their right to be accredited as bona fide trade unions. The scene is set for an intense battle, involving tens of thousands of workers.

The opening shot came yesterday from the National Union of Bank Employees, which has registered its formal opposition to staff associations getting a certificate under the Employment Protection Act, which is intended to give the associations formal status as independent trade unions.

At the same time, NUBE plans to reduce the tension with two other white collar unions which appear to have ambitions to extend into the banking or insurance area: the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (APCES).

Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, will chair separate meetings between NUBE and the two unions next month to try to clarify their claims of influence and thus avoid a potential membership war.

ASTMS, in particular, has made inroads into banking, notably with Midland. The immediate challenge by NUBE is to the staff associations of the National Westminster and the Nationwide Building Society, and to the Confederation of Employee Organizations, which championed the cause of the "Ferrybridge six" ASTMS men, is challenging the confederation.

Mr. Robert Carthy, general secretary of the National Westminster staff association, said last night: "I am shattered to think that we work so closely with NUBE, yet they can now attempt to challenge our mere existence."

The parent body of staff associations is the National Westminster, Barclays and Lloyds, the Council of Bank Staff Associations is preparing to apply for certification and NUBE will promptly lodge an objection. The CBA has not yet announced its latest audited membership, but 78,800. NUBE has 103,000 members, 42,000 of them in the three clearing banks.

NUBE will continue in the joint negotiating machinery with the staff associations, certainly until the certification officer announces his findings. His task is to define what is an independent trade union, a subject that has already had an acrimonious airing in Parliament.

Mr. Leif Mills, NUBE general secretary, said yesterday that there were some peculiarities about the financing of some staff associations, which impinged on their true independence. "Without recognition from the employers, staff associations would cease to function. Therefore, they have no independent life outside that recognition."

Payments deficit warning surprises OECD meeting

From David Blake

Paris, Feb 16

Senior officials of Working Party Three of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development met here today to discuss the future evolution of foreign exchange markets.

The delegates, all senior officials from the OECD's 24 member nations, concentrated on a somewhat theoretical discussion of the influences underlying exchange rate changes over the medium and long term.

But not far from their minds were the practical problems which face members in their attempts to manage the parity of their currencies in the coming months.

The most obvious measure of these problems is the development of the balance of payments in the industrialized states which form the core of the OECD membership.

A number of delegates today were surprised by the speed with which the predicted swing into deficit during 1976 in industrial economies began to pick up momentum. This switch towards deficit may pose difficulties for several countries this year.

Delegates are committed to a down to earth discussion tomorrow about many of Europe's most important currencies, including the lira and the French franc.

LONRHO

Results for the quarter ended 31 December 1975

The unaudited results of the Lonrho Group of Companies in respect of the three months ended 31 December 1975 are as follows:—

	3 months ended 31 December 1975	1974	Percentage Increase
	£m	£m	%
TURNOVER			
Group	211.4	94.1	
Associates	22.5	7.3	
	233.9	101.4	131
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION			
Group	17.2	12.5	
Associates	1.8	1.6	
	19.0	14.1	35
Taxation	9.6	7.6	
	9.4	6.5	
Minority interests	2.5	1.7	
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE to SHAREHOLDERS before extraordinary items	6.9	4.8	44

Lonrho Limited, London EC2V 6BL

16 February 1976

the markets moved

By Melvyn Westlake

Prop 4p to 43p
ew 4p to 82p
5p to 63p
lent 4p to 48p
Shang 5p to 34p
son 5p to 33p
son 5p to 43p

r Ind 20p to 600p
Con 18p to 134p
2p to 25p
od 2p to 18p
ms 2p to 20p
T'son 2p to 78p
ans 60p to 215p

were affected by the
Africa. Securities had a solid
rise of 25 points to \$2,022.5
devaluation rate
er cent.

er pages

c Rates Table

Meeting Reports:

Capital Trust

International Bank

15

Interim Statement:

Lonrho

Business appointments

Business Diary

Financial Editor

Financial news

16

The Times index: 165.42 -1.62

The FT index: 400.2 -5.3

THE POUND

	Bank buy	Bank sell
Australia S	1.66	1.60
Austria Sch	36.00	36.00
Belgium Fr	84.00	81.00
Canada S	2.06	2.01
Denmark Kr	12.71	12.30
Finland Mk	7.95	7.78
France Fr	9.25	8.95
Germany DM	36.30	35.00
Greece Dr	10.35	9.95
Italy Lr	1755.00	1695.00
Japan Yn	635.00	610.00
Netherlands Gld	5.50	5.30
Norway Kr	11.40	11.05
Portugal Esc	69.00	60.00
S Africa Rd	2.25	2.05
Spain Pes	136.25	130.75
Sweden Kr	9.10	8.80
Switzerland Fr	2.07	2.02
US S	40.50	37.00
Yugoslavia Dnr		

Notes for small denomination bank notes
only as supplied previously by Barclays
Bank International Ltd. London. Char-
terised by travellers' cheques and other
foreign currency business.

Reports pages 18 and 19

15

Letters

Market Reports

Wall Street

Share Prices

Bank Base Rates Table

Unit Trust Prices

16

Union report sets out plight of American construction industry

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 16

The American economy is now widely seen as recovering at a significant pace from the recession, but the country's construction industry, its largest, "is still in the depths of a deep recession", according to a report by the AFL-CIO trade union.

Construction is a \$135,000m (nearly £67,500m) annual volume industry, accounting for 5 per cent of employment and about 10 per cent of gross national product. Its unemployment rate, the study says, is almost twice the national average at 15.4 per cent, with 700,000 workers out of jobs and a further 500,000 on part-time.

By the end of June last year, 1,302 construction companies had gone out of business, the highest since 1962. New housing starts by the end of 1975 were barely half the 1973 record annual level at 1.2 million units, with bidding volume down 10 per cent from 1974 and new building plans down 12 per cent from the previous year's historically depressed level.

The report calls for urgent government action to stimulate the economy, lower overall un-

employment and special aid to the industry. It maintains that President Ford is doing nothing to reduce unemployment and claims that his latest budget "lays the groundwork for economic disaster".

Confidence in the industry remains weak because of the continuation of historically high rates of interest, widespread fears that the recovery will not be sustained and extreme caution by businessmen about investment projects.

The New York City crisis, the report adds, has undermined confidence in the financial stability of municipal governments, and the prime casualty has been the construction industry.

Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of contracts have been cancelled in the state of New York, the union says, and it estimates that 25 states and 71 municipal authorities will cut \$1,000m from their building budgets in the current year.

In New York city, the industry is probably in the worst shape of all. The New York Times estimates that 55-60 per cent of the city's building workers are unemployed. Construction contract values in the area fell from \$2,100m in 1973 to \$1,200m in 1975.

BA to have special cabins for executives

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Businessmen are to have their own cabin on board British Airways Boeing 747 jumbo jets the airline announced yesterday.

The cabin will be at the front of the aircraft, immediately behind the first-class section. Any passenger booking a full-fare economy-class ticket will automatically be offered a seat in it.

The British Airways idea, in promoting what it will call the "executive cabin" is to segregate business travellers who want to work on the journey, and whose companies have paid the full tourist-class fare for them to travel, from the tourists who are travelling on cheap fares.

To avoid distracting the executive concentration, no films will be shown in the business cabin, but there will be a choice of smoking and non-smoking areas.

The executive cabin will be introduced as an experiment by British Airways from April in 747 airliners between London and Hongkong. A total of 48 seats will be reserved.

If the experiment on the route to Hongkong proves successful, the idea will be extended to other long-distance routes.

British group wins big Chrysler US order

By Edward Townsend

After the recent tough negotiations over the future of Chrysler UK, the Chrysler Corporation of America, in what is bound to be interpreted as an attempt to assuage public opinion, has placed a multi-million dollar contract with a British component supplier.

The order has gone to Burman and Sons of Birmingham, a subsidiary of the Dupont Group, which is to manufacture all the manual rack and pinion steering gears for the corporation's new front-wheel drive small car due to go into volume production in the United States in 1977.

Chrysler said the order, which was officially announced by the United Kingdom com-

pany, was worth "many millions of dollars in overseas earnings" and was believed to be one of the largest ever placed with a British component supplier by an American motor manufacturer.

Mr F. R. Loder, Burman's chairman, who is also chief executive of the Dupont engineering division, said yesterday that the contract was won in the face of fierce competition from manufacturers in the United Kingdom, France and the United States.

The order would be "an enormous boost to morale" at the company's Tipton factory in Staffordshire, where the 150 workers who have been on a four-day week would be able to resume full working.

Motor trade sales up 19 pc

Britain's motor trade achieved a 19 per cent increase in turnover last year compared with 1974. The figures, which include transactions between dealers as well as final sales, show that the biggest rise was recorded in the second-hand sector, where sales were up 26 per cent.

New vehicle sales in 1975 were up 13 per cent on the previous year, while sales of petrol, oil, tyres, spares and accessories and receipts from servicing and repairs rose by 20 per cent.

The figures, which do not take into account seasonal fluctuations, were issued yesterday by the Department of Industry and show that new vehicle sales in the last quarter of 1975 were the same as for the corresponding period of 1974. Used vehicle sales were 23 per cent higher and other sales and receipts rose by 14 per cent.

Groups put case for superstores

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

New guidelines on hypermarket development, a form of retailing which still faces considerable opposition from local authorities, some areas and especially in the south of England, are being considered in Whitehall.

This follows a meeting when the case for hypermarkets and other large out-of-town stores was put by a group of leading grocers with such plans, including executives from Asda, Tesco, British Home Stores, Carrefour and Sainsbury. They met officials from the Department of the Environment, Trade, and Prices and Consumer Protection.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, could play a key role in any new moves because of the Government's campaign to keep down retail prices. Her officials heard the grocery representative argue that the superstores produced cost savings in distribution that should yield more competitive prices at the counter.

The question, primarily for the Department of the Environment, is how to bring more pressure to bear on local authorities. It is already government policy to welcome new developments which bring out lower retail prices and a wider range of shopping facilities.

Yet Tesco, for instance, has recently been critical of the way planning authorities in the south of England have rejected applications for the bigger stores.

One way for the department would be to issue new guidelines to local authorities, reinforcing those that went out in 1972. Since then planning disputes on stores of 50,000 square feet or more have had to go to the department for arbitration.

Out of 21 cases to date seven applications have been approved despite local authority opposition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

London's employment problem

From Mr P. Gripaios

Sir, The decision of the Greater London Council to end the policy of decentralization of population and industry (January 3) suggests that the policy has been a major reason for the loss of jobs and that its termination may help to stem the tide.

It is, unfortunately, very difficult to estimate the particular effect on employment of the policy due to the fact that there have been other influences operating at the same time. However, there are grounds for believing that the policy has not played a major role.

Examination of employment change within London shows that the problem is essentially confined to dockland and to inner London. The decline of dockland has mainly resulted from containerization of general cargo traffic, restrictive labour agreements and obsolescence of facilities, rather than from policy.

Furthermore, an examination of firm closures in the inner London boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham and Southwark revealed that in the period 1969-74 closures resulting from firm deaths were much more significant than those resulting from relocations, the latter accounting for just 31 per cent of all

closures and for 28 per cent of the resulting loss of jobs. It seems unlikely that the GLC's decentralization policy would have had much direct influence on the firm "death rates".

There is also doubt regarding the effect of policy on relocating firms. Many of the firms that have relocated from inner London would probably have done so in the absence of dispersal policy. Manufacturing, in particular, has been decentralizing from all the conurbations of the United Kingdom and in many other countries where no such policy has existed.

This decentralization has been in response to changes in production techniques, distribution of goods and improvements in communications, which have made the inner city a relatively disadvantageous location. Such changes possibly explain the high death rate of inner London firms and the relocation of many others. If so, dispersal policy may have done little more than influence the choice of destination of relocating inner London firms.

It does not appear likely, therefore, that the dispersal policy of the GLC can have been directly responsible for a large part of the total job loss. The basic reason for the losses is

the fact that inner London is now a relatively disadvantageous location not only for manufacturing but also for increasing service firms. Given this, is the policy change of the GLC likely to have much effect?

The movement of firms in previous periods for whatever reason may have indirectly affected the viability of remaining firms as a result of broken linkages and multiplier effects, and induced a process of cumulative decline.

The acceleration in the rate of employment decline in inner London since the mid 1960s, the high death rate of firms and the fact that service firms are also beginning to close, may indicate that the process of such cumulative decline may be looming.

This rather indicates that the decision of the GLC to end decentralization (and that of the Department of Industry to relax IDC controls in inner London) may amount to too little, too late. A much more positive policy is required now.

Yours faithfully,
P. GRIPAIOS,
Division of Economics,
Thames Polytechnic,
Wilmington Street,
London, SE18 6PF.
February 11.

'Monstrous fear' of bankruptcy

From Mr J. Munkman

Sir, I am pleased to see that the Law Commission has more deference to "social purpose" and, in particular, consumer protection, than to the equal scales of justice.

I give some examples: (1) Liability is said to be based on "negligence" but this does not mean "blameworthiness". It means falling short of whatever standard the court fixes, and this is often a counsel of perfection. "Negligence" is a wholly arbitrary and uncertain concept.

(2) Since the Hedley Byrne case in the House of Lords, liability may be incurred not only towards the client but towards anyone affected by advice or information given.

(3) Independent valuers and arbitrators may be liable to the losing party. Judges and advocates in court alone are exempt. For how long, one may ask? Such a unique privilege is likely to cause resentment, and there is nothing impossible in a Star Chamber of senior judges to adjudicate on the cost of unfortunate mistakes to which judges like everyone else are prone.

(4) Liability for consequential loss has been stretched to everything within the vague and arbitrary test of "foreseeability".

and partly by the influence of the Law Commission which pays more deference to "social purpose" and, in particular, consumer protection, than to the equal scales of justice.

I give some examples: (1) Liability is said to be based on "negligence" but this does not mean "blameworthiness". It means falling short of whatever standard the court fixes, and this is often a counsel of perfection. "Negligence" is a wholly arbitrary and uncertain concept.

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(4) Liability for consequential loss has been stretched to everything within the vague and arbitrary test of "foreseeability".

(5) The Law Commission has in draft a Bill to render exemptions and limitation clauses void except where the judge, in the exercise of his discretion, is of the opinion that it is just and equitable that they should apply. Such discretion is contrary to the tradition of English law, and has become far too fashionable.

A limit on professional liability could be conditional on having valid insurance to the amount. But it is adding insult to injury to make insurance compulsory, as happened to solicitors recently, without a protection above that limit to return.

I have not mentioned doctors, because damages for personal injuries rarely exceed £100,000. But in the United States, where awards are unpredictable, doctors are said to be avoiding the riskier areas of practice. There are signs in this country too, much to my regret, that it will make experts of their reports and opinions, and so many qualifications that it will be useless.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MUNKMAN,
37 Park Square,
Leeds LS1 2PD.
February 11.

Government's 'indifference' to the small shopkeeper

From Mr J. Checkley

Sir, The refusal of the Government last night to allow Sir John Langford-Holt to introduce a private member's Bill aimed at giving greater freedom to small shopkeepers simply serves to underline the complete indifference of the Government towards independent shopkeepers and the community they serve from legislation for the small shopkeeper. The Government should encourage it, if they really have the interest of the public at heart.

Far from stifling a move towards greater freedom from legislation for the small shopkeeper, the Government should encourage it, if they really have the interest of the public at heart.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHECKLEY,
Maid Marian retail services division,
Howardsgate,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire,
February 12.

'Buying British' - from South Korea

From Mr John Townsend

Sir, Convinced by recent extortion that I should "Buy British" I have made a practice of doing so.

As a result I have uncovered a situation regarding which there has been a conspiracy of silence. The articles I have bought bearing the names of great British firms have had small lettering "Made in South Korea" or Taiwan or in other cheap labour countries.

Will Mr Shore elucidate, please.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN TOWNSEND,
1 Homefield Close,
Seaford,
Sussex.
February 2.

NCC to spur British service industry abroad

The National Computing Centre is working closely with the Computing Services Association in a bid to expand the overseas activities of the United Kingdom computer service industry.

In a review of the centre's international work Mr David Firnberg, NCC director, said that the centre aimed to encourage other countries and international bodies to take decisions which could enhance the more effective use of computing in the United Kingdom. It also aimed to promote awareness of Britain as a major world source of computing expertise, and market profitably the centre's own products and services.

NCC training materials had been sold in over 40 countries, Mr Firnberg said, and more than 30 of the centre's Filetab software package had been installed abroad.

Over 30 overseas organizations wishing to take advantage of NCC products and services had joined as international affiliates of the centre.

In the 12-month period to the end of March, 1976, the centre expects to earn more than £150,000 from the marketing of its products overseas.

Computer news

In bringing the British view to bear on international policy-making, Mr Firnberg said, the NCC would work with the relevant international bodies. In particular, the centre would become involved with the computer activities of the European Community and with the British Standards Institution and international standards committees.

Euronet pact signed
Implementation of the proposed Euronet computer network has got under way with the signing of a contract between the European Commission and the post and telegraph authorities of the nine member-countries for the installation of the basic data communication system.

The contract is worth 1.9m units of account (over £1m). The network will handle scientific and technical information between centres in all nine countries, with main network centres located in London,

Paris, Frankfurt and Rome.

There will be lines to concentrator units in the other five countries, and dial-up access is planned. No contract has yet been placed covering the data-base content of the network, which will use packet-switching technology.

Joint study on way

A joint study of the computing services industry is to be tackled by the Department of Industry, the Central Computer Agency and the Computing Services Association.

This comes after discussions between representatives of the three organizations, as part of an examination of relationships between the computing services industry and the Government.

The joint study will "ascertain facts, study developments in other countries, observe trends and report to the steering group". (The steering group consists of government representatives and members of the CSA Government Liaison Committee).

Government policies as they affect the industry will be considered in the light of this report. Among the factors to be reviewed in the study are the

role of the industry; trends in user requirements and in technology; and export implications.

Provisional billings for the computing services industry for the third quarter of 1975, published last week, totalled £41.2m. This is almost the same as in the second quarter.

Philips change name

The name of the business computer division of Philips Industries, the Dutch-owned electronics group, has been changed from Philips Electronics to Philips Data Systems.

"Coinciding with the last stages of Unidata's demise", the company states, in a reference to the ill-fated collaboration with Siemens in Germany and CII in France, "the change of name restates Philips' policy decision to concentrate the full weight of their electronic data processing activity on the small and medium-sized installation market".

A new range of small business computer is to be announced in the United Kingdom later this year, the company indicated.

Kenneth Owen

Have your overheads got too high?

Bring them down with

"A good move"

'A Good Move' explains how Offices and Service Industries can bring down their rentals and other overheads by moving to the Areas for Expansion.

If you're considering moving all or part of your headquarters, this booklet explains how you can qualify for substantial financial help in the Areas.

Help like generous removal grants, up to 5 years' rent-free office space, and a grant of £800 for each employee moved.

But that's not all the Areas have to offer - homes close to your work, schools, colleges and 25 major universities, many leisure and beauty spots and excellent communications with the rest of Britain.

We have Industrial Expansion Teams in each of the Areas who will advise you on good locations for your new offices and the range of financial help you can qualify for.

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Department of Industry, Millbank
Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU
Please send me "A Good Move" with details of the benefits available to Offices and Service Industries in the Areas for Expansion

Name _____
Position In Company _____
Company _____
Nature of Business _____
Address _____

The Areas for Expansion

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SCOTTISH ECONOMIC PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND THE WELSH OFFICE.

Steady increase in catering trade turnover

Caterers, including hotels, restaurants and public houses, were showing continued turnover improvements in the final quarter of last year, according to the Department of Industry returns out yesterday.

There was a seasonally adjusted 3 per cent increase over the third quarter of 1975, and the annual improvement on the previous year was 18 per cent.

Other returns not seasonally adjusted showed that public houses, with a 20 per cent increase, registered the best improvement over the final quarter compared with the same period of 1974.

Textile workers seek £4 rise

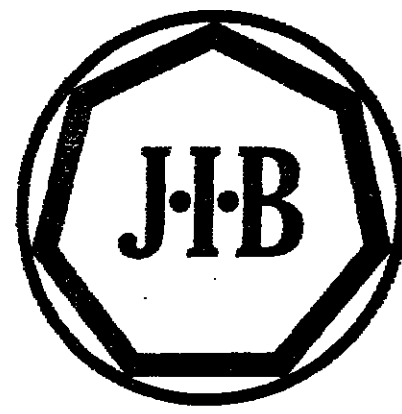
An application for a £4 a week rise is being made by the National Association of Unions in the Textile Trade to the Wood (and Allied) Textile Employers' Council in Bradford. It will cover about 60,000 workers, most of them in West Yorkshire but including some in the West of England.

A similar increase is also being sought by the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers for about 20,000 workers.

Talks today on smelter strike

Talks aimed at resolving the Avonmouth zinc smelter strike will be held today, Mr John Miller, national secretary of the chemical, oil and rubber group of the Transport and General Workers Union said yesterday. Union officials and representatives of Commonwealth Smelting will discuss the dispute with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

The strike is over mounting levels at the Avonmouth smelter which produces just under 50 per cent of United Kingdom supplies - Reuters.



Extract from Accounts at 31st December, 1975.

	1975	1974
Issued Capital	£000	£000
Retained Profits	10,800	10,800
Subordinated Loans	1,506	981
Deposits	4,941	4,258
Loans	273,825	225,880
Total Assets	169,599	148,019
Profits before Taxation	296,810	248,164
after Taxation	1,825	1,682
	849	780

Japan International Bank Limited

Shareholders
Fuji Bank Daiwa Securities
Mitsubishi Bank Nikko Securities
Sumitomo Bank Yamaichi Securities
Tokai Bank

7/8 King Street, London EC2V 8DX

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Equities wait for the trigger

able supports the widely held view that the first phase of the market is now well advanced and that the trigger, which could take the index up to around 450, is performing shares down a past three months have been the receiving end of a big bid such as Clowes and Johnston's, who were left behind in the last year's rally. But there is a strong possibility of a bid. But without a bid, it must also be true that investors are going to be paying increasing attention to the question of whether London's market is still a good place to invest. The Government's general reflation policy is winning more support for another round of income controls while the outlook for the next year is for another cent. growth. But a comes policy could also trigger dividend con-

over given the increased assets in the United Kingdom—but the Arabs have been noticeably silent on their shareholdings, leaving other shareholders, as has happened so often in the past, the stark as to future of their country.

The shares fell sharply from their weekend level, before recovering slightly on publication of the figures to end 4p off at 125p, to yield 5.3 per cent. On a prospective p/e of around 41, the shares look to be more than discounting the uncertainty about the possibility of a bid. But without a bid, it must also be true that investors are going to be paying increasing attention to the question of whether London's market is still a good place to invest.

First Quarter 1975/76 1974/75
Sales £233.9m (£101.4m)
Pre-tax profits £19m (£14.2m)

SHARE PERFORMANCE
FIA Index for 91 days to February 13 up 6.9%
Industrial Stocks

Rises
Caravans Int 148.7%
Weston Pharm 105.3%
Clover 102.5%
Manganese Bronze 92.9%
French Kier 85.7%
Ultra Electronic 82.9%
Int Computers 77.8%
Allied Insulators 68.6%
National Carbonising 67.2%
Redman Heenan 65.7%
Blackwood Morton 61.7%
Spirilla Group 61.5%
Crown House 60.0%
Johnson Richards 57.9%
Reynolds Parsons 57.1%
Hovringham 56.8%
Mixed Concrete 56.0%
Lafarge 54.3%

Falls
British Dredging -35.7%
Bristol Plant -30.3%
Beyer Peacock -28.9%
James Scott -26.7%
Francis Parker -24.6%
Hawthorn Leslie -23.8%
Sheaf Steam -22.5%
Reardon Smith -22.4%
AD International -21.4%
Ward White Group -20.0%
William Lowe -19.7%
John Laing -18.6%
Normand Electric -18.2%
Matthew Clarke -17.7%
Sainsbury -17.6%
Berry Wiggins -17.4%
Beverbrook -17.4%
Smith & Nephew -17.4%
Source: dataSTREAM

Norsk Hydro
Increased interest costs
Norsk Hydro, the Norwegian chemical, metals and oil group, has achieved a revenue surplus for the first time on the North Sea investment. But at the same time increased interest costs on loans covering North Sea development work cut into group profits. And in the six months to the end of December, pre-tax profits slipped 16 per cent to 97.8m Norwegian Kroner (£8.7m).

The group's 6.7 per cent stake in the Ekofisk oil and gas field is now income-producing. But the costs of development work on the Ekofisk field, in which the group holds a 33 per cent stake in the Norwegian sector, equivalent to around 15 per cent overall, have escalated dramatically, and the group has been borrowing heavily on the European market to fund its share of the work.

Indeed, apart from the £520m (£44m) raised in last summer's rights issue, Norsk Hydro has taken on 80m Swiss Francs (£15.5m) in the form of

15-year loans, 125m Guilders (£23m), again as a 15-year debt, 100m Swiss Francs (£19m) at 10 years, and a further 550m (£23m) has recently been raised on the Eurodollar market.

Together, these loans are expected to cover the group's requirements in the North Sea commitment. By late 1977, or mid-1978, when the Ekofisk field is in full production, the balance of group earnings will begin to shift from the traditional chemicals, fertilisers and metals towards oil and gas. And by the mid-1980s it is estimated that over half of the group's earnings will be coming from the North Sea.

For the time being, Norsk Hydro is still affected by the downturn in demand for fertiliser and metal products. However, the group has seen an upturn in the market for plastic raw materials and development work on the extensive petrochemical plant in Norway is progressing well.

Still, for most non-Norwegian investors the group remains essentially a North Sea stock and one which is an historical p/e of 19.5 on the Oslo price of Kr330, is unlikely to show its paces until the Ekofisk field joins Ekofisk as a revenue producer in two years time.

Interim 1975/76 (1974/75)
Capitalisation 3,766m
Sales 2,126m (£179m)
Pre-tax profits 97.8m (£11m)
*All figures in Norwegian kroner.

British Enkalon
Out of the recession
The downturn in the textile cycle from mid-1974—more pronounced than for 20 years—has tripped up many fibre producers with a steeper than average fall in British Enkalon, including most of the European majors—ICI, Rhône-Poulenc, Montedison—and some of the Japanese.

Nevertheless, the scale of British Enkalon's losses is not as bad as a year ago. Enkalon, on sales of £39.5m—is, worryingly, particularly so the intensification of cost saving measures in the second half did very little to cut back last half losses of £2.1m.

Tough competition at both the polyester and nylon markets has caused prices to weaken by more than 5 per cent when at least a 10 per cent increase was required to cover cost pressures. And though demand at the quality end of the market in tyre cord, conveyor belting and carpets has stood up reasonably well, the decline in the broad-and-narrow clothing and household textiles markets has kept British Enkalon working some 35 per cent below capacity. In a company where breakeven is more like 80 per cent that is a recipe for disaster.

Enkalon's trading picture has now started to improve but with the United Kingdom textile industry recovering more slowly than in Europe, any marked improvement will have to wait until the second half of the current year.

Apart from the demand outlook, sewing is Enkalon's other main cash source. The company's cash position in 1974, to judge by the big jump in interest charges to £975,000 last year working capital requirements continued to escalate.

But according to the company's new management, those thin straws in the wind helped the shares put on 1p to 21½p yesterday but a capitalisation of £6.1m only underlines how speculative the shares still are.

Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalisation £6.1m
Sales £38.5m (£40.3m)
Pre-tax loss £59.6m (£14,000*)
Earnings per share nil (3p)
Dividend gross 0.58p (0.57p)
*Profit.

Front seat
Probably the hottest seat in Chrysler's restructured United Kingdom management—although vacant since the end of last year—is being taken over by Malcolm Freshney who has been running the company's operations in southern Ireland.

Now he becomes director in charge of the Linwood complex near Glasgow where later this year Chrysler—under its £162m rescue deal with the government—will be concentrating all of its solely British-made car assembly operations.

Freshney, a former infantry lieutenant-colonel who served in Burma during the last war, joined the old Rover group in 1957 before the Chrysler takeover. He has held senior jobs in Mexico, Canada and the United States before taking over as managing director in Ireland in 1966.

At Linwood he takes on the job previously held by Scott Glover, who left Chrysler to go to Messier-Ferguson, a move which apparently had no connection with the American-

The Foreign Secretary warned over the weekend of possible political repercussions in Zambia and Zaïre after an MPLA success in the Angolan civil war. But what of the economic damage, in terms of hard cash as well as business confidence, to these neighbouring black African countries, and indeed what of the economic damage to war-torn Angola itself?

Surveying the events of 1975 we might conclude that all three countries should by now be on the verge of total involvement. Such pessimism is overdone.

Zaïre, as has been well publicized, is in deep trouble with her creditors. Problems began in 1974 when the copper price slumped from £1400 to £600 per ton, in a matter of five months. Since then it has shown little inclination to move, and Cupec (the copper purchaser's cartel) are continuing their 15 per cent production cutback until at least June, 1976.

For Zaïre the slump in price means a dramatic fall in international reserves (from \$140m to \$70m) at the end of 1974 to \$30m by August). Almost all of her gold reserves were sold off, and at the nadir of her liquidity fortunes foreign exchange reserves were down to \$6m when imports were running at \$100m a month.

The final ignominy was struck in January, 1976, when the prestigious Tanke Fungurume copper project was suspended.

The timing of nationalization in Zaïre has added to President Mobutu's dilemma. Congo received when copper prices were

LEADING EXPORTING NATIONS IN BLACK AFRICA
(1974 data in US \$ millions)

Exports	Imports	Trade balance
Angola 1202	614	+588
Gabon 979	360	+619
Ivory Coast 1214	969	+245
Nigeria 9567	2737	+6830
Zaïre 1303	1589	-286
Zambia 1406	912	+494

Source: International Monetary Fund

pal concern was to gain access to the heavy cash flow which characterizes insurance business. The attractions of investing these premiums to take advantage of universally high interest rates in the early 1970s ended the less prudent to fundamental principles of good underwriting.

The competition from New York, where "The Syndicate", a group of tariff companies writing hull business, dominates the market, and from Scandinavian Europe, now augmented by that from Tokyo, prosperous and anxious to make new inroads into the marine underwriting market.

Rates began to decline and a few voices from London and elsewhere began to urge caution. But Mr. E. Hunter, chairman of the Liverpool Underwriters' Association, recalled at that association's annual meeting yesterday the marine market generally was in a mood to listen to such warnings.

For those were the "exciting days" when shipowners all over the world, aided and abetted by a compliant banking fraternity, were ordering more and yet more tonnage "a la carte" in the VLCC, ULCC and LNG categories. If rates were declining there appeared to be an ever increasing total volume of premiums against which to set underwriting risks.

These halcyon days disappeared almost overnight as the slump in world trade brought about a marked reduction in shipping movements, particularly in tanker voyages, following the quadrupling of

internal investigation into a bribery and found someone in the company who was not involved in these "questionable practices" and who therefore became the new permanent chairman.

Haack was president of the New York Stock Exchange for five years and when he retired from that post in 1972 he said that he wanted to step out of the spotlight.

He took directorships in a wide host of companies, including Lockheed, Signal, Merrill Lynch and Nabisco and clearly looked forward to the quiet life at his home in a Washington suburb.

Haack now, however, seems back in the spotlight. His appointment to the Lockheed chairmanship was probably the least welcome of his birthday presents; he turned 59 on Sunday. He will be assisted in all top Lockheed management decisions by two men who clearly are front-runners to become the next permanent chairman—Roy Anderson, 55, who was named a vice chairman in charge of finance last October and Lawrence Kitchen, 52, who became president of the company last October.

Haack, the son of a Milwaukee insurance executive, took a business administration masters degree from Harvard University in 1940. Then he held various jobs in the stock brokerage business before becoming head of the New York exchange in 1967, only to pre-empt the brokerage business during a period of immense difficulties and controversy.

high, "Zaireization" was announced in November, 1973. In January, 1974, petroleum products distribution companies were nationalized, and by March, 1975, the process had been extended throughout much of the foreign owned sectors of the economy. Organizational difficulties, and rapidly growing import bill (encouraged by the period when Mobutu saw Zaïre as a possible leader of black Africa's merely compensated Zaïre's economic misfortunes).

Thus, President Mobutu cannot blame the Angolan situation for all his troubles, yet the events on his southern border have hampered his economic optimism. The war has displaced his export routes from copper producing Katanga (the state whose independence declaration triggered the bloody Congo crisis 16 years ago), and the MPLA has maintained Angolan control over the enclave of Cabinda (whose oil resources President Mobutu has eyed for some time). The Benguela Railway, which passes from copper mines to Lobito, was, until closed by the war, carrying 25 per cent of Zaïre's copper to export markets.

The export route problem is far more serious for the Zambians, and although the country is not facing immediate debt servicing difficulties, her financial economic crisis is as serious as that of Zaïre, her fellow Cupec member. At the height of the copper price boom, the Benguela Railway was transporting 10 per cent of Zambia's copper to the coast, and until the closure the railway was moving 30,000 tonnes a month, three times the volume expected from Zambia.

Now virtually all the copper must travel along the Tan-Zam

Railway, and even if this link were adequate, congestion at Dar es Salaam would prevent additional volume being handled. Some 60,000 tonnes are stockpiled at the Tanzanian port, and the Zambian Government has had to charter two additional vessels to cope with the backlog, and is negotiating with Kenya to reopen the Mombasa route. Indeed, should copper prices recover unexpectedly, Zambia would be unable to reap the full benefit.

As a result of the slump in copper, Zambia has been facing a serious liquidity problem for the past year, with reserves falling from \$172m to below \$50m in mid-year.

Because the country is 90 per cent dependent on copper for foreign exchange revenues, the effect of the cash shortage has been felt throughout the economy. An import licence scheme was introduced at the height of the crisis in mid-1975, and finally on January 28, 1976, President Kaunda declared a state of emergency. On the following day food and fertilizer price increases, of effectively more than 100 per cent, were announced.

Again Zambia has suffered the misfortune of backing the losers in the Angolan war. This may not prove to be as difficult an obstacle as it seems at first sight for Angola, once its political future is stabilized, will need all the foreign exchange

close his account until all claims have been reported to him and he in turn has been able to notify all those parties—probably running into hundreds—with whom he has reinsured. Apparently there are signs, however, that the reinsurers are beginning to react more quickly and more strongly to loss experience and in time this could have the effect of helping to harden rates throughout the marine market.

There was, moreover, some indication at the International Union of Marine Insurance Conference in Tokyo last September that insurance markets other than the London one—still by far the most important in the world, although it is difficult to quantify its importance because of the ramifications of reinsurance—are aware of the need for more realistic premium rates.

Meanwhile the problem remains one of too many underwriters chasing too few risks and chasing them into new areas such as cargo insurance, where they are also causing problems, because of the slump in the hull market.

Lloyd's whose individual underwriting names are arguably more quickly aware of the need for an underwriting profit than is a more amorphous company, is particularly concerned at how the company market, in London as well as overseas, is apparently still happy to write business for the investment income in some cases. Company agents and brokers are blamed, moreover, for seeking insurance capacity overseas at rates which tend to depress the international market.

Few doubt, however, that in time the cycle will right itself again, though only if some fingers have been badly burnt. The LUA helps to put the situation into context in its latest annual report with a quote from the report 30 years ago.

This year "Regarding marine insurance, underwriters are still experiencing anxious times. Constant efforts are, however, being pursued to restore underwriting to a sound basis but the present unfavourable economic conditions, coupled with unbridled competition, retard the attainment of any appreciable results."

Business Diary: Minor Forty-Niner • Chrysler's Freshney

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At Linwood he will be in charge of some of the key elements in Chrysler's massive reorganization programme, including the transfer this summer of Coventry car production from Coventry and the introduction of planned new models. In addition, he will be making component manufacturing operations. In fact it will be making the whole of Chrysler's British car range apart from the engines which will still come from the Stoke plant at Coventry. The Ryton assembly plant at Coventry will shortly be putting together cars from French-made components.

The Linwood labour force is not the easiest to cope with but not the easiest to cope with but Freshney's style is said to be based on "cooperation not con- based on". His job in Ireland from 1964 to 1966 was to deal with the Chrysler's central sales and marketing department where he has been director in charge of fleet sales. Chrysler will be announcing some other management changes later this week.

High flyer
Robert Haack, who was appointed on Friday as interim chairman of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation insists that

Zambia and Zaïre struggle with the economic repercussions of the Angolan civil war

In the shadow of the gunmen



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he will only be in the job for a "short time". But he won't say how short is short, and the feeling is that it may be longer than he anticipates.

Daniel Baughman at Lockheed primarily because he has considerable stock market experience, a reputation for honesty and integrity, and has shown skill as an administrator. One

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Coffee sales from Luanda were suspended in September and the MPLA now has two years of coffee in stock.

The split in the country has led to innumerable legalistic problems to be privately owned bank, the Banco Pinto do Socio Mayor, nationalized by Portugal and now owned 51 per cent by the Angolan Government, is wondering which Angolan movement now holds the shares. And in London, in November, the International Coffee Agreement talks were suspended when Angola was represented by both the MPLA and the FNLA/Unita group.

In terms of hard economics, therefore, Angola is in the most precarious short-term position, whereas the long-term potential is good. The former Portuguese jewel is potentially one of the wealthiest black African countries (see table). The bitterness of the conflict, as well as being a reflection of internal division, is ample demonstration of the value of the prize at stake.

Until oil production (80 per cent from Cabinda) became of such importance, Robusta coffee was the colony's leading export. Exploitation of mineral resources have only scratched the surface, although diamond production requires additional mining and exploration to maintain production levels. Manganese and iron ore resources are believed to be in abundance: the Cassinga iron ore reserves in the south (in which there have been substantial involvement from West Germany) are estimated at 1,000 million tons.

New investment in manufacturing (as opposed to mining) was running at \$50m per annum prior to independence, and familiar names such as Reckitt & Colman, Crown Cork, Firestone, General, etc., have been investing in the economy. All is now, of course, in abeyance pending the cessation of hostilities, but it would be very surprising if even a Marxist MPLA government prevented foreign investors from assisting the economy to tap its vast potential.

Richard O'Brien

A.J. MILLS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Food Importers and Distributors


Years ended October	1973	1974	1975
	£	£	£
Group turnover	28.7m	41.3m	51.0m
Group profit	593,994	670,330	781,078
Tax provision	271,801	359,659	451,264
Dividends	80,393	86,015	91,405
Earnings	per ord. 9.2p	8.9p	9.4p
Net assets	share 56.3p	63.1p	65.7p

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary Colonial House, Tooley Street, London SE1 2PU

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Subdued shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb. 9. Dealings End, Feb. 20. Contango Day, Feb. 23. Settlement Day, Mar. 1.
C Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

the  teamworkers
Taylor Woodrow

[illegible]

THE TIMES SHARE IND

The Times Industrial Share Index	163.82	3.88	19.27	1
Lazard & Co.	164.00	3.75	19.70	1

1. Number of cases	167	167	167	167
2. Number of cases	167	167	167	167
3. Number of cases	167	167	167	167

DATE: 11/11/11

Largest Financial
and Industrial

10-20-72

Gold Mining
Name: Joe W. - No. 1234

Industrial

Preferencemaps	35.18	12.75	-
Thick base - 2.6m	28.5	22.65	-

A record of The Times Industrial Index is given below:—

	High	Low
Aluminum 799.47	100.00	100.00

1973	130.97	19.1	41	706.0
1974	136.25	23.8	60	722.1
1975	139.99	24.8	100	744.5

1973	108.33	125.01	174.48	110.00
1972	102.47	125.68	172.23	107.00
1971	104.77	127.15	172.23	107.00

* First interest yield.

Number of people in group	Number of people likely to follow leader
1	1
2	8
3	9
4	9.5
5	9.8
6	9.9
7	10
8	10
9	10
10	10

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

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